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26 Attorneys for Plaintiff, VSolvit LLC

27 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

28 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

29 VSOLVIT LLC, a Nevada limited liability  
30 company,

31 Case Number:  
32 2:23-cv-00454-JAD-DJA

33 Plaintiff,

34 vs.

35 SOHUM SYSTEMS, LLC, et al.,

36 **STIPULATION FOR LEAVE TO FILE**  
37 **AMENDED COMPLAINT**

38 Defendants.

39 Plaintiff VSolvit LLC, by and through its counsel of record, Christian T. Balducci,  
40 Esq., of the law firm of Marquis Aurbach, and Defendants Sohum Systems, LLC (“Sohum”)  
41 and Creative Information Technology, Inc. (“CITI”) (collectively, “Defendants”), by and

1 through Thomas Brownell, Esq., of the law firm Holland & Knight and Robert McCoy, Esq.  
 2 and Sihomara L. Graves, Esq., of the law firm Kaempfer Crowell, hereby stipulate as  
 3 follows:

4       1. On or about March 27, 2023, Plaintiff filed the instant matter for  
 5 anticipatory breach of contract and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair  
 6 dealing. ECF No. 1.

7       2. On or about April 21, 2023, Defendants filed an Answer to the Complaint.  
 8 ECF No. 29.

9       3. On or about June 13, 2023, the parties jointly moved to stay the litigation  
 10 pending the United States Department of Agriculture’s (“USDA”) release of the FPAC  
 11 Farm Programs Software Delivery (“Beech”) task order, which is the procurement that the  
 12 parties agreed to jointly pursue when they entered a teaming agreement. ECF Nos. 34, 35.  
 13 The stay, after being extended twice due to related bid protest proceedings, ECF Nos. 36-  
 14 39, terminated on August 1, 2024. ECF No. 39.

15       4. On or about August 1, 2024, the parties reported to the Court that their  
 16 dispute persists. ECF No. 41, ¶¶ 9-10 (“Plaintiff contends that, given [Beech’s] current  
 17 status . . . it can proceed with its claim for damages at this time. Defendants[, Sohum  
 18 Systems, LLC and Creative Information Technology, Inc. (collectively “Defendants”)]  
 19 disagree, contending that, regardless of what further action USDA may take, the  
 20 cancelation of the Beech solicitation renders Plaintiff’s action in this case moot, and in the  
 21 alternative, that Plaintiff cannot prove its alleged damages.”). The parties further reported  
 22 that this case was ready to proceed and that it should do so once Plaintiff has amended the  
 23 Complaint and Defendants have either filed an Answer to the amended Complaint or a  
 24 dispositive motion. *Id.* ¶ 11.

25       5. The parties thus “request[ed] that the Court enter an Order establishing a  
 26 deadline of August 30, 2024 for the filing of Plaintiff’s Amended Complaint and a deadline  
 27 of September 27, 2024 for the filing of Defendant’s responsive pleading.” *Id.* at 4.

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1       6.     “A motion for leave to amend brought under Rule 15(a)(2) should be  
 2 granted freely ‘when justice so requires.’” *Bates v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, Civil  
 3 Action No. 2:22-cv-00957-CDS-EJY, 2024 WL 3887408, at \*2 (D. Nev. Aug. 8, 2024)  
 4 (quoting FED. R. CIV. P. 15(a)(2)). “This policy is ‘to be applied with extreme liberality.’”  
 5 *Eminence Cap., LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d 1048, 1051 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Owens*  
 6 *v. Kaiser Found. Health Plan, Inc.*, 244 F.3d 708, 712 (9th Cir. 2001)).

7       7.     In determining whether to grant a motion for leave to amend, “the Court  
 8 considers whether there is ‘undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the  
 9 movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendments previously allowed, undue  
 10 prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of allowance of the amendment, [and] futility of  
 11 amendment.’” *Bates*, 2024 WL 3887408, at \*2 (quoting *Eminence Cap., LLC*, 316 F.3d at  
 12 1052) (brackets in original). All inferences to be drawn must be in favor of granting leave  
 13 to amend when the Court considers these factors. *Id.* (citing *Griggs v. Pace Am. Grp., Inc.*,  
 14 107 F.3d 877, 880 (9th Cir. 1999)).

15       8.     The interests of justice weigh in favor of granting Plaintiff leave to amend  
 16 its Complaint as none of the aforementioned factors are present.

17       9.     First, Plaintiff has not delayed amending its Complaint nor does it seek to do  
 18 so now in bad faith or with a dilatory motive. To the contrary, Plaintiff moves for leave  
 19 promptly after the parties determined that the USDA’s corrective action process has  
 20 proceeded to a sufficient point where the litigation can continue. USDA recently resolved  
 21 the uncertainty related to the Beech procurement when it elected to terminate Beech in its  
 22 entirety and proceed with a new bidding process.

23       10.    Second, this is the first instance in which Plaintiff has sought to amend its  
 24 Complaint. Thus, it has not “repeatedly” failed to cure deficiencies in its complaint, which,  
 25 to be sure, there were none. Rather, the amendment is necessary to ensure the Complaint  
 26 comports with the factual developments following USDA’s decision to cancel Beech.

27       11.    Third, no party will be prejudiced should the Court grant Plaintiff leave to  
 28 amend. Indeed, Defendants have authorized Plaintiff to represent that they stipulate to the

1 relief requested herein. *See also Underwood v. O'Reilly Auto Enters., LLC*, 342 F.R.D. 338,  
 2 343 (D. Nev. 2022) (prejudice “is the most important consideration in determining whether  
 3 to allow amendment”); *see also Montes v. Bank of Am.*, Civil Action No. 2:13-cv-00660-  
 4 RCJ-VCF, 2014 WL 13450232, at \*3 (D. Nev. Apr. 3, 2014) (“The Ninth Circuit has  
 5 repeatedly stated that the prejudice must be ‘substantial.’”) (quoting *Duggan v. Hobbs*, 99  
 6 F.3d 307, 313 (9th Cir. 1996) (other citation omitted)).

7       12. Fourth, this Court may grant Plaintiff leave to amend despite the parties  
 8 conflicting positions on the ultimate merits of Plaintiff’s case; those disputes are more  
 9 appropriately resolved through a motion to dismiss or motion for summary judgment  
 10 should Defendants choose to file the same. *Montes*, 2014 WL 13450232, at \*3 (“A  
 11 proposed amended complaint is ‘futile’ if it would not withstand a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to  
 12 dismiss.”) (citations omitted); *Playup, Inc. v. Mintas*, Civil Action No. 2:21-cv-02129-  
 13 GMN-NJK, 2022 WL 1528488, at \*1 (D. Nev. May 13, 2022) (“[D]enial of leave to amend  
 14 on [futility] ground[s] is rare. Ordinarily, courts will defer consideration of challenges to  
 15 the merits of a proposed amended pleading until after leave to amend is granted and the  
 16 amended pleading is filed.”) (quoting *Netbula, LLC v. Distinct Corp.*, 212 F.R.D. 534, 539  
 17 (N.D. Cal. 2003)); *Babbitt v. Nielsen*, Civil Action No. 2:18-cv-02076-RFB-NJK, 2019 WL  
 18 918986, at \*2 (D. Nev. Feb. 2, 2019) (declining to consider futility when permitting leave  
 19 to amend).

20       13. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff respectfully requests leave to file an  
 21 amended complaint.

22       14. A copy of the proposed Amended Complaint is appended hereto and marked  
 23 as Exhibit 1.

24       15. The Defendants shall have until September 27, 2024, to file their pleadings  
 25 in response to the Amended Complaint.

26

27

28

MARQUIS AURBACH

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**Case Number: 2:23-cv-00454-JAD-DJA  
VSolvit LLC vs. Sohum Systems, LLC, et al.,**

3 || Dated this 30th day of September 2024.

Dated this 30th day of September 2024.

4 MARQUIS AURBACH

## HOLLAND & KNIGHT

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*Attorneys for Sohum Systems, LLC and  
Creative Information Technology, Inc.*

*Attorney for Plaintiff, VSolvit, LLC*

## ORDER

## IT IS SO ORDERED:

  
DANIEL J. ALBRECHTS

DANIEL J. ALBREGTS  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

DATED: 9/4/2024

# **EXHIBIT**

# **1**

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18 *Attorneys for Plaintiff, VSolvit LLC*

19  
20 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

21  
22 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

23  
24 VSOLVIT LLC, a Nevada limited liability  
25 company

26 Case Number 2:23-cv-00454-JAD-DJA

27 Plaintiff,

28  
**PLAINTIFF VSOLVIT LLC'S  
AMENDED COMPLAINT**

v.

29  
**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

30 SOHUM SYSTEMS, LLC, and CREATIVE  
31 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INC., a  
32 Maryland corporation

33 Defendants.

# PLAINTIFF VSOLVIT LLC'S AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, VSolvit LLC (“Plaintiff” or “VSolvit”), a Nevada limited liability company, in the above-entitled action, by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby demands judgment against Defendants, Sohum Systems, LLC (“Sohum”), a Kansas limited liability company, and Creative Information Technology, Inc. (“CITI”), a Maryland corporation (collectively, “Defendants”), jointly and severally, for the equities and amounts set forth herein, and as its Amended Complaint, states as follows:

## **NATURE OF THE CASE**

9           1. This matter arises out of a dispute between government contracting teaming  
10 partners.

11           2.       In preparation for bidding on a lucrative federal contract with the United States  
12 Department of Agriculture, VSolvit, Sohum, and CITI (collectively, the “Parties”) entered  
13 into an exclusive teaming agreement that set forth the requirements of the Parties’ joint  
14 business relationship.

15       3.     Specifically, VSolvit or its designee was to serve as the prime contractor (the  
16     “Prime”) for the bid, while Sohum and CITI were to serve as subcontractors.

17 4. As the formal bidding process neared, however, Sohum and CITI colluded to  
18 breach the exclusivity requirements of the teaming agreement, remove VSolvit as the Prime,  
19 and bid together using VSolvit's confidential and proprietary information to do so.

20       5.       VSolvit now seeks redress for Defendants' breach of the teaming agreement  
21 and other misconduct as described herein.

## **PARTIES, JURISDICTION, & VENUE**

23       6. Plaintiff, VSolvit LLC, is a Nevada limited liability company, duly organized  
24 and existing and owned and operated under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Nevada,  
25 with a principal place of business at 4171 Market Street, Suite 2, Ventura, California, 93003.  
26 For purposes of subject-matter jurisdiction, VSolvit is a citizen of Nevada and Tennessee,  
27 which are the states of citizenship of all of its members.

28 7. Defendant Sohum Systems, LLC is a Kansas limited liability company, duly

1 organized and existing and owned and operated under and by virtue of the laws of the State  
2 of Kansas, with a principal place of business at 9232 W. 143rd Terrace, Overland Park, Kansas  
3 66221. On information and belief, for purposes of subject-matter jurisdiction, Sohum is a  
4 citizen of Kansas, which is the state of domicile of all of its members.

5       8.     Defendant Creative Information Technology, Inc. is a Maryland corporation,  
6 duly organized and existing and owned and operated under and by virtue of the laws of the  
7 State of Maryland, with a principal place of business at 12709 Greenbriar Road, Potomac,  
8 Maryland 20854. On information and belief, for purposes of subject-matter jurisdiction, CITI  
9 is a citizen of Maryland, which is the state of its incorporation and where its principal place  
10 of business is located.

11       9.     This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28  
12 U.S.C. § 1332 in that there is complete diversity of citizenship among the Parties and the  
13 amount in controversy exceeds the value of \$75,000.00.

14       10.    This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Sohum and CITI  
15 have purposefully availed themselves of the privilege of conducting activities in the State of  
16 Nevada and have sufficient minimum contacts with the State of Nevada such that maintenance  
17 of this suit does not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. Specifically,  
18 Sohum and CITI agreed to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state and federal courts in and for  
19 the State of Nevada for resolution of disputes related to breach of the exclusivity provisions  
20 of their teaming agreement.

21       11.    Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a  
22 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this suit occurred in this judicial  
23 district, and the Parties agreed that the state and federal courts in and for the State of Nevada  
24 would be the stipulated venue for resolution of disputes related to breach of the exclusivity  
25 provisions of their teaming agreement.

26       ///

27       ///

28       ///

## **FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS**

## A. Federal Government Contracting

12. The Federal Acquisition Regulations (“FAR”) system governs the federal government procurement process. The FAR is a codification and publication of uniform procedures for acquisition by all executive agencies.

13. When a government agency has a requirement to be fulfilled by contractors, it may issue a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) or Solicitation for bids (“Solicitation”). The type of economic activity that will be performed under the contract is classified under the North American Industry Classification System (“NAICS”). NAICS uses a six-digit hierarchical coding system to classify all economic activity into twenty industry sectors.

14. Contractors that operate under the corresponding NAICS code(s) assigned to the RFP may submit an offer/proposal/bid for award of a federal government contract.

15. Contractors that operate under the same NAICS codes are competitors because they are eligible to bid and actually bid on federal contracts available under those NAICS codes.

16. Upon submissions of offers/proposals/bids by proposed contractors, the government agency issuing the federal contract reviews the offers and issues a contract award to the successful offeror.

17. Depending on the RFP and contract in question, the Government can award a stand-alone contract; a contract vehicle under which awardees will compete for and/or receive task orders; or task orders under those vehicles.

## **B. Teaming Arrangements**

18. Under FAR 9.602(a), contractors can combine their capabilities to bid on federal procurement opportunities by executing a teaming arrangement in order to submit a well-rounded proposal that they believe presents better value than submitting a proposal on their own.

19. Teaming arrangements permit contractors to better respond to Solicitations while offering the federal government the benefits of an improved team bid.

1       20. Pursuant to FAR 9.603, the Government is required to recognize the integrity  
 2 and validity of contractor teaming arrangements provided those arrangements are identified  
 3 and company relationships are fully disclosed in an offer.

4       21. In accordance with FAR 9.601, a teaming arrangement can be composed of a  
 5 partnership/joint venture or one of the members of the teaming arrangement can act as the  
 6 prime contractor with the other companies acting as the prime contractor's subcontractors.  
 7 The latter type of these arrangements is commonly referred to as a "teaming agreement."

8 **C. Background on the Parties**

9       22. VSolvit has been in operation since 2006 as a government contractor that offers  
 10 various services and products primarily centered on Information Technology ("IT").  
 11 VSolvit's services include cyber security management, cloud computing, engineering  
 12 services, and program and project management.

13       23. As part of its business, VSolvit participates in the Federal Government's  
 14 procurement process, wherein VSolvit and other contractors compete against one another by  
 15 submitting respective bids in response to Solicitations released by various federal agencies.  
 16 Also as part of its business, VSolvit performs work as a subcontractor under prime contractors  
 17 that were awarded government contracts.

18       24. VSolvit operates under the following NAICS codes: 541715, 541330, 541370,  
 19 541511, 541512, 541513, 541519, 541611, 541614, 541618, 541620, 541690, 541810,  
 20 541990, 561110, 561210, 561410, 561990, and 611420.

21       25. CITI has been in operation since 1996 as a government contractor that offers  
 22 various services and products primarily centered on IT. CITI's services include cyber security  
 23 management, cloud computing, engineering services, and program and project management.

24       26. As part of its business, CITI participates in the Federal Government's  
 25 procurement process, wherein CITI and other contractors compete against one another by  
 26 submitting respective bids in response to Solicitations released by various federal agencies.  
 27 Also as part of its business, CITI performs work as a subcontractor under prime contractors  
 28 that were awarded government contracts.

1       27. CITI operates under the following NAICS codes: 541511, 323111, 334111,  
 2 334112, 334118, 334290, 334511, 334614, 423430, 488119, 488210, 488390, 488490,  
 3 488999, 511120, 511210, 517911, 518210, 519120, 519130, 519190, 532420, 541330,  
 4 541370, 541430, 541490, 541512, 541513, 541519, 541611, 541614, 541618, 541690,  
 5 541990, 561110, 561210, 561320, 561410, 561621, 561990, 611420, 611430, 611710,  
 6 621999, 811212, and 811213.

7       28. Sohum has been in operation since 2013 as a government contractor that offers  
 8 various services and products primarily centered on IT. Sohum's services include cyber  
 9 security management, cloud computing, engineering services, and program and project  
 10 management.

11       29. As part of its business, Sohum participates in the Federal Government's  
 12 procurement process, wherein Sohum and other contractors compete against one another by  
 13 submitting respective bids in response to Solicitations released by various federal agencies.  
 14 Also as part of its business, Sohum performs work as a subcontractor under prime contractors  
 15 that were awarded government contracts.

16       30. Sohum operates under the following NAICS codes: 541511, 541330, 541512,  
 17 541513, and 541519.

18 **D. CIO-SP3 Small Business Contract Vehicle**

19       31. "Chief Information Officer-Solutions and Partners 3 Small Business" ("CIO-  
 20 SP3 SB") is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity ("IDIQ"), unrestricted multiple award  
 21 contract ("MAC"), small business contract vehicle held by 307 businesses, including VSolvit  
 22 and Sohum.

23       32. VSolvit was awarded CIO-SP3 on May 11, 2020, and Sohum received it via  
 24 Government-approved novation (i.e., acquisition or transfer from another contractor) on  
 25 December 5, 2022.

26       33. Under CIO-SP3, the Government issues RFPs for task orders.

27 **E. USDA FPAC Farm Programs Software Delivery (Beech)**

28       34. USDA FPAC Farm Programs Software Delivery ("Beech") is a task order that

1 was issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) for competitive bids on  
 2 June 16, 2023 under the CIO-SP3 SB contract vehicle.

3 35. By issuing Beech under CIO-SP3 SB, the USDA limited competition to  
 4 contractors who hold a CIO-SP3 SB prime contract.

5 36. Beech was a consolidation of several existing task orders, including two task  
 6 orders previously being performed by VSolvit and the Defendants under a subcontracting  
 7 relationship: (1) USDA FSA Application Development Common Farm Program Systems; and  
 8 (2) USDA FSA Application Development Subsidy and Disaster Systems (hereinafter  
 9 collectively referred to as the “Task Orders” for the “PARMO” contract). Beech was to be a  
 10 long-term contract; bidding opportunities do not arise often for such lucrative, long-term  
 11 contracts, particularly for small businesses.

12 **F. PARMO Contract**

13 37. On or about May 23, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services  
 14 awarded the CIO-SP3 unrestricted vehicle to CITI.

15 38. On or about August 15, 2017, the USDA issued to CITI the Application  
 16 Development Subsidy and Disaster Systems Task Order under the CIO-SP3 unrestricted  
 17 vehicle.

18 39. On or about September 11, 2017, the USDA issued to CITI the Application  
 19 Development Common Farm Program Systems Task Order under the CIO-SP3 unrestricted  
 20 vehicle.

21 40. On October 12, 2017 and October 16, 2017, VSolvit and the Defendants  
 22 entered into agreements (“PARMO Agreements”) to split the workshare of the Task Orders,  
 23 with each party being guaranteed at least 25% of the work performed under the PARMO  
 24 contract.

25 41. Per the PARMO Agreements, VSolvit and the Defendants were to share  
 26 revenue and profits equally. Each of the Parties was to receive a 25% workshare, with the  
 27 remaining 25% to either be allocated to a third party or split evenly among the parties. The  
 28 parties were to true up the revenue share at the end of each quarter in order to ensure each of

1 them met their desired goal.

2       42. Over the term of the PARMO Agreements, Defendants failed to allocate equal  
 3 workshare and revenue to VSolvit. In the quarter ended December 31, 2022, for instance,  
 4 VSolvit received only 13.46% of the workshare on the PARMO contract, while CITI and  
 5 Sohum unduly benefited from 36.77% and 49.77% workshare, respectively.

6 **G. Teaming Agreements for Beech RFP**

7       43. Given the importance of the Beech contract to the Parties' businesses, in Spring  
 8 2022, approximately a year before the Beech RFP would be issued, the Parties began to  
 9 prepare for the upcoming bid.

10       44. VSolvit, Sohum, and CITI decided to team together because they each possess  
 11 unique capabilities, experience, and past performance with USDA, including all serving as  
 12 incumbent contract performers for USDA on the PARMO contract.

13       45. On June 13, 2022, VSolvit and Defendants entered into and executed Teaming  
 14 Agreement T724-20889 (hereinafter, the "Agreement") for the pursuit of Beech. A true and  
 15 correct copy of the Teaming Agreement, redacted of confidential and proprietary information,  
 16 is appended hereto and marked as Exhibit A.

17       46. Under Article 1.1 of the Agreement, VSolvit has the sole and exclusive  
 18 discretion to serve as or designate the prime contractor ("Prime") for the pursuit of Beech.  
 19 Exhibit A § 1.1.

20       47. Indeed, VSolvit could choose to designate itself or a teaming partner or joint  
 21 venture in which it was an owner as the Prime, depending on the procurement vehicle under  
 22 which the Beech RFP would be issued. *Id.* At the time the parties entered the Agreement, the  
 23 USDA had not disclosed the vehicle under which Beech would be issued.

24       48. The position of Prime was of critical importance to VSolvit because it permits  
 25 VSolvit to maintain control over its workshare, which, as described above, it was not able to  
 26 do when CITI was Prime for the PARMO contract.

27       49. The Agreement also requires Defendants to commit to an exclusive  
 28 relationship with each other to support the designated Prime in the pursuit of Beech. *Id.* § 1.3.

1       50. Specifically, under Article 1.3 of the Agreement, Defendants agreed to  
 2                   commit to an exclusive agreement for Subcontractors to support  
 3                   Prime Contractor. Subcontractors shall not act as a Prime  
 4                   offeror, have not entered into any teaming arrangements with  
 5                   other offerors under the Program prior to this Agreement, nor  
 6                   will they enter into any teaming arrangements with other  
 7                   offerors under the program after this Agreement, and that they  
 8                   shall otherwise be teamed exclusively with Prime Contractor  
 9                   with regards to the Program. [ ] Subcontractors agree that this  
 10                  restriction is reasonable and agreed to by Subcontractors in  
 11                  consideration for Prime Contractor's execution of this  
 12                  Agreement.

13                  *Id.*

14       51. Exclusivity was the primary and material purpose of the Agreement. The fact  
 15                  that the parties had agreed to team exclusively gave VSolvit the trust and peace of mind  
 16                  necessary for VSolvit to share its win themes and strategies and its confidential and  
 17                  proprietary information in pursuit of the best possible proposal for the Beech contract.

18       52. VSolvit expected Defendants to abide by the exclusivity provisions in the  
 19                  Agreement.

20       53. The exclusivity provision was material to VSolvit, and VSolvit would not have  
 21                  entered into the Agreement without Defendants' promises of exclusivity.

22       54. As early as April 2022, VSolvit and Defendants began discussing win themes  
 23                  for their pursuit of the Beech contract.

24       55. On May 2, 2022, VSolvit sent an Initial Gate Review email to Defendants  
 25                  indicating that VSolvit would be the Prime under Beech. Subsequent documentation and  
 26                  correspondence reinforced this designation, including, without limitation, VSolvit's Request  
 27                  For Information response and USDA FPAC Beech 1 - Pre-Proposal Kickoff Presentation.

28       56. On May 6, 2022, Plaintiff and Science Application International Corporation  
 29                  (hereinafter, "SAIC"), executed Teaming Agreement T712-20889 for the pursuit of Beech,  
 30                  with SAIC to act as a separate subcontractor to VSolvit.

31       57. This separate teaming arrangement between VSolvit and SAIC was  
 32                  specifically permitted by Section 1.3 of the Agreement. *Id.* ("Prime Contractor shall have the

1 right to contract with other entities to supplement Prime Contractor's team for this  
2 Solicitation.”).

3       58. The agreement with SAIC contained the same exclusivity provision that was  
4 included in the Agreement. SAIC agreed to this exclusive relationship with VSolvit.

5       59. VSolvit, Defendants, and SAIC began pre-proposal activities in September  
6 2022.

7       60. Over the course of the parties' work toward obtaining the Beech contract,  
8 VSolvit conducted many team planning meetings designed to move the team's proposal  
9 forward in a cohesive and collaborative way.

10       61. From September 2022 through February 2023, the Parties exchanged  
11 confidential and proprietary information related to the upcoming bid, including VSolvit's  
12 proposed technical approach for the Beech work.

13       62. VSolvit provided Defendants its confidential and proprietary information in  
14 order to coordinate and enhance the parties' efforts on the Beech bid.

15       63. From September 2022 through January 2023, the Parties and SAIC worked in  
16 collaboration to develop win themes (i.e., strategies for success in the bidding process) for the  
17 Beech proposal submission.

18       64. The win theme documents discussed then-current known challenges on all  
19 programs and developed concepts for mitigation strategies to be employed in the event of the  
20 award of Beech to the VSolvit team. They also contained VSolvit's internal process of  
21 developing win theme statements as well as complete win theme statements and  
22 differentiators. Essentially, these documents set forth VSolvit's detailed win strategy for the  
23 Beech procurement. Therefore, a competitor's use of this information would give the  
24 competitor an undue and unfair competitive advantage in the bidding process and allow the  
25 competitor to develop similar win themes or develop points of emphasis against VSolvit's  
26 solution to discredit it.

27       65. These win themes were shared with Sohum and CITI only because the Parties  
28 had agreed to an exclusive teaming arrangement where they would combine their capabilities

1 to create the best possible chance that the team, with VSolvit as the Prime, would win the  
 2 Beech award. VSolvit never would have shared its confidential and proprietary information  
 3 with Defendants if not for Defendants' clear and unequivocal promise of exclusivity.

4       66. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to VSolvit, Sohum and CITI were negotiating and  
 5 colluding behind the scenes to improperly exit the teaming arrangement, wrest control of the  
 6 upcoming bid, minimize VSolvit's participation (just as they had done with regard to the  
 7 PARMO contract workshare), and utilize VSolvit's confidential and proprietary information  
 8 for their own substantial benefit.

9 **H. Defendants' Improper Termination for Convenience & Anticipatory Breach of  
 10 the Agreement**

11       67. Sohum's and CITI's scheme came to fruition when, on February 9, 2023,  
 12 Sohum sent an email to VSolvit stating its desire to terminate the Agreement for convenience  
 13 pursuant to Article 10.4 and pursue Beech as a Prime offeror. Sohum also stated its desire to  
 14 engage SAIC as a subcontractor and to modify the terms of VSolvit's teaming agreement with  
 15 SAIC.

16       68. That same day, February 9, 2023, CITI also sent an email to VSolvit stating  
 17 that it was terminating the Agreement for convenience pursuant to Article 10.4 and would be  
 18 moving forward under Beech on a team with Sohum as Prime. CITI also expressed its desire  
 19 to use in its alternate teaming arrangement with Sohum as Prime all of the information that  
 20 had been collected from VSolvit.

21       69. A termination for convenience of the Agreement does not absolve Defendants  
 22 of their obligation to team exclusively with VSolvit as the Prime.

23       70. Sohum's and CITI's notices to VSolvit that they intended to enter into a  
 24 separate teaming arrangement for the Beech RFP with SAIC were anticipatory breaches or  
 25 repudiations of the Agreement.

26       71. Section 1.3 of the Agreement specifically states that the Parties "shall not act  
 27 as a Prime offeror" and will not "enter into any teaming arrangements with other offerors  
 28 under the Program after this Agreement[,"] which is a specific reference to exclusivity

1 continuing even after a termination.

2       72. Nevertheless, on February 9, 2023, both Sohum and CITI expressly and/or  
3 impliedly informed VSolvit that they would not perform their obligations under the  
4 Agreement.

5       73. On February 11, 2023, VSolvit responded back to Sohum to inform it that  
6 VSolvit did not agree to a change in Prime. In this email, VSolvit also reminded Sohum that  
7 discussions with SAIC were unacceptable given VSolvit's exclusive relationship with SAIC.  
8 CITI was copied on this email.

9       74. SAIC also informed VSolvit that CITI reached out to SAIC directly to discuss  
10 Beech.

11       75. On February 21, 2023, VSolvit sent letters to Defendants demanding that the  
12 Defendants cure their breach of the Agreement by February 23, 2023. Defendants refused.

13       76. Thereafter, the parties continued to discuss possible solutions to resolve  
14 Defendants' anticipatory breach of the Agreement.

15       77. Defendants refused to cure or to commit to performing their obligations under  
16 the Agreement.

17       78. Instead, when the Beech bids were due, Sohum submitted a bid as Prime with  
18 CITI as a primary subcontractor. VSolvit was not included in the Sohum bid.

19       79. VSolvit also submitted a bid in response to the Beech request for proposals.  
20 Sohum and CITI did not participate in VSolvit's bid.

21       80. Sohum's submission of a bid in response to Beech without VSolvit was a  
22 breach of the Agreement. Specifically, the Agreement prohibited Sohum from "act[ing] as a  
23 Prime offeror" for the Beech procurement. The Agreement also required Sohum to team  
24 exclusively with VSolvit.

25       81. CITI's participation on the Sohum bid for Beech also breached the Agreement.  
26 Specifically, the Agreement prohibited CITI from entering into a teaming arrangement with  
27 Beech offerors other than VSolvit. The Agreement also required CITI to team exclusively  
28 with VSolvit.

1       82.    Sohum's and CITI's breaches of the Agreement were material because  
 2 exclusivity was the primary purpose of the Agreement. The fact that the parties had agreed  
 3 to team exclusively gave VSolvit the trust and peace of mind necessary for VSolvit to share  
 4 its win themes and strategies and its confidential and proprietary information in pursuit of the  
 5 best possible proposal for the Beech contract. VSolvit would not have entered into the  
 6 Agreement without Defendants' promises of exclusivity.

7 **I. Defendants' Access of VSolvit's Beech Team Drive**

8       83.    After Defendants terminated the Agreement, and while VSolvit was attempting  
 9 to resolve Defendants' anticipatory breaches, Defendants continued to access, review, and  
 10 copy confidential and proprietary documents in the VSolvit Beech team drive, including  
 11 VSolvit's confidential and proprietary information and technical approach to the Beech  
 12 program.

13       84.    Sohum's and CITI's access to VSolvit's confidential and proprietary  
 14 information and technical approach to the Beech program gave Sohum and CITI an unfair  
 15 advantage in the Beech procurement. Indeed, Sohum and CITI knew, in advance of  
 16 submitting an offer for the Beech program, what VSolvit intended to include in its proposal  
 17 to the USDA and its strategies for mitigating performance risks and vulnerabilities.

18       85.    As of no later than February 9, 2023, Sohum and CITI knew that they would  
 19 not team with VSolvit on the Beech procurement. Nevertheless, on February 10, 2023, Sohum  
 20 viewed and copied a technical outline the Parties had compiled for their team use on the Beech  
 21 proposal which was kept on VSolvit's team share drive.

22       86.    This document outlined VSolvit's strategy for developing its technical  
 23 response to the upcoming RFP. Use of this information by a competitor would give that  
 24 competitor insight into VSolvit's technical approach and knowledge of how VSolvit would  
 25 present that information to the Government, which they could exploit as a building block to  
 26 improve upon their proposal.

27       87.    On February 14, 2023, Sohum viewed and copied a number of other technical  
 28 documents, including other technical outlines, experience narratives, staffing plans, company

1 profiles, key personnel resumes, and other confidential and proprietary information that had  
 2 been created for use on VSolvit's bid for the Beech contract.

3       88. On February 15, 2023, Sohum viewed and copied documents related to the  
 4 Parties' prior experience on similar projects and resumes of key personnel.

5       89. On March 2, 2023, Sohum viewed VSolvit's technical outline. The document  
 6 includes highly confidential and proprietary details leading into VSolvit's proposed solution  
 7 for the Beech RFP.

8       90. Sohum viewed the USDA Beech Technical 1 Outline twice: first during a live  
 9 collaborative technical outline discussion in which Sohum was able to see all of the updates  
 10 made to the document as they occurred; and the second time after the discussion had  
 11 concluded.

12       91. A bidding party's technical approach is a critical factor—indeed often the most  
 13 critical factor—in government procurements. Technical capability is often what distinguishes  
 14 a successful contractor from an unsuccessful one.

15       92. All of the information viewed and downloaded was confidential and  
 16 proprietary and, if obtained by a competitor, would give that competitor an unfair advantage  
 17 in the bidding for the Beech contract through detailed knowledge of VSolvit's approach to  
 18 winning the contract.

19       93. All of VSolvit's Confidential Information viewed and downloaded by Sohum  
 20 and CITI constitutes VSolvit's trade secrets.

21       94. Once VSolvit's Confidential Information was known to Sohum and CITI, it  
 22 was impossible for Sohum and CITI to segregate that knowledge from its preparation of a  
 23 proposal in competition with VSolvit.

24       95. The only reason Sohum and CITI would access, review, and download  
 25 VSolvit's confidential and proprietary information after termination is to use the same to  
 26 compete against VSolvit for Beech.

27       96. Prior to and during all times relevant to the Beech procurement, VSolvit has  
 28 invested considerable amounts of time, money, and resources in developing and maintaining

1 its valuable confidential information, including but not limited to, its procurement strategies,  
 2 win theme details, technical outlines, technical approaches, technical write-ups, experience  
 3 narratives, staffing plans, company profiles, key personnel resumes, and other confidential  
 4 and proprietary information (collectively, "Confidential Information").

5       97. In order to protect its Confidential Information, VSolvit, among other things,  
 6 restricts access to its Confidential Information to employees with a need-to-know; it requires  
 7 its employees who will have access to such Confidential Information to sign non-disclosure  
 8 and confidentiality agreements; it limits teaming partners' access to Confidential Information  
 9 to specific employees with a need-to-know; it enters into non-disclosure and confidentiality  
 10 agreements with its teaming partners; and it tracks use of its Confidential Information,  
 11 including by tracking when documents are downloaded from share files. VSolvit also applies  
 12 restrictive confidentiality legends to Confidential Information to ensure that documents are  
 13 not shared inadvertently outside the small circle of individuals who are granted access to such  
 14 information.

15       98. Thus, VSolvit takes reasonable measures to protect and preserve the secrecy  
 16 and confidentiality of its Confidential Information and trade secrets.

17       99. VSolvit has spent many years and considerable sums of money and resources,  
 18 to develop its valuable confidential information concerning its business, competitive win  
 19 strategies, and Confidential Information.

20       100. VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets described herein relate to  
 21 products and services VSolvit uses in and intends to use in interstate or foreign commerce,  
 22 including with the USDA and other federal government agencies.

23       101. VSolvit derives independent economic value, actual and/or potential, from its  
 24 Confidential Information and trade secrets described herein not being generally known to, and  
 25 not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic  
 26 value from the disclosure or use of such information.

27       102. VSolvit entered into confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements with  
 28 Sohum and CITI. Indeed, the parties entered into stand-alone non-disclosure agreements to

1 protect the confidentiality of information exchanged in furtherance of the Beech procurement.  
2 In addition, Article 6 of the Agreement referenced the parties' non-disclosure agreements and  
3 ensured that their confidentiality obligations would survive termination of the Agreement.

4       103. VSolvit invested many hours and company resources in proposal preparation  
5 efforts for the benefit of all team members, and exchanged confidential and proprietary  
6 information with Defendants, in reliance on the Parties' mutual promises, as set forth in the  
7 Agreement, specifically their agreement to combine their capabilities and team exclusively to  
8 respond to the Beech RFP.

9       104. Those exclusivity requirements were intended by all Parties to last even "after  
10 this Agreement" was terminated. Exhibit A § 1.3.

11       105. VSolvit's attempts to encourage Defendants to cure their anticipatory breach  
12 were unsuccessful, and Defendants refused to abide by the exclusivity requirements of the  
13 Agreement continues.

14       106. Defendants misappropriated VSolvit's trade secrets, in violation of the Defend  
15 Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1836, et seq. Specifically, Defendants requested, received,  
16 accessed, downloaded (including after Defendants knew they would compete against VSolvit  
17 for the Beech procurement), VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets, and, on  
18 information and belief, have used VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets,  
19 including but not limited to VSolvit's procurement strategies, win theme details, technical  
20 outlines, technical approaches, technical write-ups, experience narratives, staffing plans,  
21 company profiles, key personnel resumes, and other confidential and proprietary information,  
22 for Defendants' own commercial advantage to, among other things, compete against VSolvit  
23 and pursue the Beech award.

24       107. At the time of Defendants' acquisition, misappropriation, and misuse of  
25 VSolvit's trade secrets, Defendants knew that they did not have VSolvit's consent, either  
26 express or implied, to share or use VSolvit's Confidential Information or trade secrets.  
27 Moreover, at the time Defendants downloaded and used VSolvit's Confidential Information  
28 and trade secrets, they knew or had reason to know that their knowledge of VSolvit's

1 Confidential Information and trade secrets was derived solely and exclusively because of their  
 2 agreement to use VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets solely and exclusively  
 3 in conjunction with VSolvit's bid for Beech.

4       108. Given Sohum's and CITI's knowledge of and access to VSolvit's Confidential  
 5 Information and trade secrets, Sohum and CITI had an unfair competitive advantage during  
 6 the procurement process.

7       **J. The Beech Competition**

8       109. On or before July 5, 2023, VSolvit submitted a complete proposal for the  
 9 Beech procurement.

10       110. Sohum also submitted a proposal in response to the Beech procurement, with  
 11 CITI as a teaming partner and proposed subcontractor.

12       111. Later in July 2023, VSolvit was notified that the USDA had selected VSolvit  
 13 to advance to the second phase of the procurement process.

14       112. The only other offeror that advanced to the second phase of the procurement  
 15 process was the Sohum-CITI team.

16       113. Because the VSolvit team and the Sohum-CITI team were the top two ranked  
 17 teams for the Beech procurement, it is unmistakable that the VSolvit team contemplated by  
 18 the Agreement (i.e., VSolvit as Prime with Sohum and CITI as subcontractors) would have  
 19 won the Beech award if not for Sohum's and CITI's breach of their exclusivity obligations set  
 20 forth in the Agreement.

21       114. Phase two of the procurement process involved oral presentations to the USDA  
 22 by the VSolvit team and the Sohum-CITI team.

23       115. On September 29, 2023, VSolvit was notified that the USDA had awarded the  
 24 Beech contract to the Sohum-CITI team.

25       116. On October 10, 2023, VSolvit filed a bid protest with the U.S. Government  
 26 Accountability Office ("GAO") challenging the USDA's award to Sohum on several grounds.

27       117. Because the bid protest resulted in a stay of the award to the Sohum-CITI team,  
 28 the USDA issued a bridge contract (i.e., a contract to bridge the gap between the end of CITI's

1 PARMO contract and the beginning of performance on the eventual Beech contract) to the  
2 team of Sohum and CITI.

3 118. Sohum and CITI excluded VSolvit from the bridge contract and awarded  
4 VSolvit no workshare.

5 119. On January 9, 2024, the USDA issued a Notice of Corrective Action with  
6 respect to VSolvit's bid protest. As part of the corrective action, the USDA permitted offerors  
7 to submit new price proposals and participate in new oral presentations.

8 120. After corrective action, the USDA again awarded the Beech contract to the  
9 Sohum-CITI team.

10 121. On February 23, 2024, VSolvit filed new bid protest of the corrective action  
11 proposed by the Agency.

12 122. On March 23, 2024, the USDA gave a further Notice of Corrective Action  
13 stating that it intended to cancel the Beech solicitation for purposes of re-evaluating the  
14 agency's contract requirements.

15 123. Sohum and CITI have been performing on the bridge contracts since the  
16 improper award of Beech to Sohum, without VSolvit's participation.

17 124. In July 2024, the USDA notified VSolvit that it intends to procure the Beech  
18 project through a new procurement process.

19 125. Had Sohum and CITI met their exclusivity obligations under the Agreement,  
20 VSolvit would have been awarded Beech and would not have filed a bid protest.

21 126. Had Sohum and CITI met their exclusivity obligations under the Agreement,  
22 VSolvit would be performing on the Beech contract currently, with Sohum and CITI as  
23 subcontractors.

24 127. As a direct and proximate result of Sohum's and CITI's breach of the  
25 Agreement, VSolvit suffered damages, including but not limited to the loss of the Beech  
26 contract and all revenues and profits associated therewith, the costs associated with all bid  
27 protests (including attorneys' fees incurred to resolve the agency's incorrect and unlawful  
28 award to the Sohum-CITI team), and other damages.

1        128. As a direct and proximate result of Sohum's and CITI's misappropriation of  
2 VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets, VSolvit has suffered damages, including  
3 but not limited to the loss of the Beech contract and all revenues and profits associated  
4 therewith, the costs associated with all bid protests (including attorneys' fees incurred to  
5 resolve the agency's incorrect and unlawful award to the Sohum-CITI team), and other  
6 damages.

7        129. VSolvit's damages shall be determined at trial, but in all cases exceed the  
8 amount of \$75,000.00.

9       130. Defendants actions in misappropriating VSolvit's Confidential Information  
10 and trade secrets was wanton, willful, malicious, and in conscious disregard of VSolvit's  
11 rights, thus entitling VSolvit to monetary, exemplary, and punitive damages, as well as  
12 attorneys' fees and costs.

## **CAUSES OF ACTION**

**Count I – Breach of Contract  
(Against Defendants Sohum and CITI)**

131. VSolvit incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth and restated herein.

132. On June 13, 2022, Plaintiff and Defendants entered into the Agreement, which is a valid and binding contract.

133. Plaintiff satisfied and performed all of its conditions and obligations under the Agreement and was at all times ready, willing, and able to continue performing under the terms of the Agreement.

134. The Agreement contains an exclusivity clause at Article 1.3, which obligated Defendants to “commit to an exclusive agreement for Subcontractors to support Prime Contractor” and “be teamed exclusively with Prime Contractor with regards to the” Beech program and prohibited Defendants from “enter[ing] into any teaming arrangements with other offerors under the Program after this Agreement . . . .” It also expressly prohibited Defendants from acting as a Prime offeror for the Beech contract. Exhibit A § 1.3.

1        135. Defendants breached the Agreement starting on February 9, 2023 by, *inter alia*,  
2 informing VSolvit that they were terminating the Agreement for convenience in order to team  
3 together to submit a bid for the Beech contract with Sohum to serve as the Prime.

4        136. Defendants further breached the Agreement when, *inter alia*, (a) Sohum  
5 submitted a bid in response to Beech without VSolvit, because the Agreement prohibited  
6 Sohum from “act[ing] as a Prime offeror” for the Beech procurement; (b) Sohum failed to  
7 team exclusively with VSolvit for the Beech procurement; (c) CITI participated on the Sohum  
8 bid for Beech, because the Agreement prohibited CITI from entering into a teaming  
9 arrangement with Beech offerors other than VSolvit; and (d) CITI failed to team exclusively  
10 with VSolvit for the Beech procurement, among other breaches.

11        137. Sohum's and CITI's breaches of the Agreement were material because  
12 exclusivity was the primary purpose of the Agreement. The fact that the parties had agreed  
13 to team exclusively gave VSolvit the trust and peace of mind necessary for VSolvit to share  
14 its win themes and strategies and its Confidential Information and trade secrets in pursuit of  
15 the best possible proposal for the Beech contract. VSolvit would not have entered into the  
16 Agreement without Defendants' promises of exclusivity.

17       138. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breach of the Agreement, their  
18 improper access and use of VSolvit's confidential and proprietary information, and the other  
19 wrongdoing described herein, Plaintiff has been and will continue to be damaged in an amount  
20 to be determined at trial but in no event less than \$75,000.00.

## **Count II – Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing (Against Defendants Sohum and CITI)**

22 139. VSolvit incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1  
23 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth and restated herein.

24       140. On June 13, 2022, Plaintiff and Defendants entered into the Agreement, which  
25 is a valid and binding contract.

28 141. Plaintiff satisfied and performed all of its conditions under the Agreement and  
27 is ready, willing, and able to continue performing under the terms of the Agreement.

1       142. The Agreement contains an exclusivity clause at Article 1.3, which obligated  
 2 Defendants to “commit to an exclusive agreement for Subcontractors to support Prime  
 3 Contractor” and “be teamed exclusively with Prime Contractor with regards to the” Beech  
 4 program and prohibited Defendants from “enter[ing] into any teaming arrangements with  
 5 other offerors under the Program after this Agreement . . .”

6       143. The exclusivity provisions of the Agreement were an integral and material part  
 7 of the Agreement because they fostered trust among the Parties and allowed VSolvit to share  
 8 confidential and proprietary information about the upcoming bid and VSolvit’s strategy for  
 9 winning the Beech contract as a Prime without the inherent risk and concern that such  
 10 information would be shared with competitors or used to VSolvit’s detriment.

11       144. Defendants breached their duty of good faith and fair dealing when they  
 12 undermined the intent and spirit of the Agreement which was centered around exclusivity.

13       145. Specifically, on February 9, 2023, Defendants breached the implied covenant  
 14 of good faith and fair dealing by, *inter alia*, informing VSolvit that they were terminating the  
 15 Agreement for convenience in order to team together to submit a bid for the Beech contract  
 16 with Sohum to serve as the Prime.

17       146. Defendants then breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing  
 18 again when, *inter alia*, (a) Sohum submitted a bid in response to Beech without VSolvit,  
 19 because the Agreement prohibited Sohum from “act[ing] as a Prime offeror” for the Beech  
 20 procurement; (b) Sohum failed to team exclusively with VSolvit for the Beech procurement;  
 21 (c) CITI participated on the Sohum bid for Beech, because the Agreement prohibited CITI  
 22 from entering into a teaming arrangement with Beech offerors other than VSolvit; and (d)  
 23 CITI failed to team exclusivity with VSolvit for the Beech procurement, among other  
 24 breaches.

25       147. Even if Defendants’ termination for convenience technically complied with the  
 26 terms of the Agreement, the termination was made in bad faith in an attempt to circumvent  
 27 Defendants’ obligations under the Agreement and undermined the intent and spirit of the  
 28 Agreement which was centered around exclusivity and collaboration.

1       148. The parties explicitly agreed that VSolvit would designate the Prime and the  
2 others would serve as subcontractors in sole pursuit of Beech. Sohum's independent decision  
3 to serve as Prime despite the prohibitions it agreed to in the Agreement, and CITI's desire to  
4 team with Sohum in lieu of its binding arrangement with VSolvit, all facilitated through a  
5 misguided and bad faith termination for convenience, deprives VSolvit of the benefit of the  
6 bargain it justifiably expected at the time of contracting.

7 149. Furthermore, Defendants' termination for convenience with the intention of  
8 bidding competitively against VSolvit is an unfair act that works to VSolvit's disadvantage  
9 since it deprives VSolvit of its right to designate the Prime and the benefit of teaming with the  
10 other parties as subcontractors.

11        150. Because Defendants terminated the Agreement for convenience in an attempt  
12 to avoid their obligations under the exclusivity clause, they deprived VSolvit of its justified  
13 expectations under the Agreement, specifically that it would exclusively team with and  
14 combine capabilities with Sohum and CITI in order to put forth a strong bid for the Beech  
15 work.

16        151. The termination for convenience by Sohum and CITI was entirely and  
17 exclusively a self-motivated action so that Sohum could control the workshare distribution on  
18 the eventual Beech contract award, reduce VSolvit's workshare, just as CITI did on the  
19 PARMO contract, and increase Sohum's and CITI's revenues, profits, and workshare on  
20 Beech.

21 152. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breach of the implied covenant  
22 of good faith and fair dealing Plaintiff has been and will continue to be damaged in an amount  
23 to be determined at trial but in no event less than \$75,000.00.

**COUNT III – Misappropriation of Trade Secrets  
(Defend Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1836, et seq.)  
(Against Defendants Sohum and CITI)**

26        153. VSolvit incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1  
27        through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth and restated herein.

1       154. As set forth above, VSolvit's Confidential Information includes its trade  
2 secrets, which are related to products and services VSolvit uses in and intends to use in  
3 interstate or foreign commerce, including with the USDA and other federal government  
4 agencies.

5       155. VSolvit derives independent economic value, actual and/or potential, from its  
6 Confidential Information and trade secrets described herein not being generally known to, and  
7 not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic  
8 value from the disclosure or use of such information.

9       156. Prior to and during all times relevant to the Beech procurement, VSolvit has  
10 invested considerable amounts of time, money, and resources in developing and maintaining  
11 its valuable Confidential Information and trade secrets.

12       157. In order to protect its Confidential Information, VSolvit, among other things,  
13 restricts access to its Confidential Information to employees with a need-to-know; it requires  
14 its employees who will have access to such Confidential Information to sign non-disclosure  
15 and confidentiality agreements; it limits teaming partners' access to Confidential Information  
16 to specific employees with a need-to-know; it enters into non-disclosure and confidentiality  
17 agreements with its teaming partners; and it tracks use of its Confidential Information,  
18 including by tracking when documents are downloaded from share files. VSolvit also applies  
19 restrictive confidentiality legends to Confidential Information to ensure that documents are  
20 not shared inadvertently outside the small circle of individuals who are granted access to such  
21 information.

22       158. Thus, VSolvit takes reasonable measures to protect and preserve the secrecy  
23 and confidentiality of its Confidential Information and trade secrets.

24       159. VSolvit has spent many years and considerable sums of money and resources,

1 to develop its valuable confidential information concerning its business, competitive win  
2 strategies, and Confidential Information.

3       160. VSolvit entered into confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements with  
4 Sohum and CITI. Indeed, the parties entered into stand-alone non-disclosure agreements to  
5 protect the confidentiality of information exchanged in furtherance of the Beech procurement.  
6 In addition, Article 6 of the Agreement referenced the parties' non-disclosure agreements and  
7 ensured that their confidentiality obligations would survive termination of the Agreement.

8       161. Defendants misappropriated VSolvit's trade secrets, in violation of the Defend  
9 Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1836, et seq. Specifically, Defendants requested, received,  
10 accessed, downloaded (including after Defendants knew they would compete against VSolvit  
11 for the Beech procurement), VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets, and, on  
12 information and belief, have used VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets,  
13 including but not limited to VSolvit's procurement strategies, win theme details, technical  
14 outlines, technical approaches, technical write-ups, experience narratives, staffing plans,  
15 company profiles, key personnel resumes, and other confidential and proprietary information,  
16 for Defendants' own commercial advantage to, among other things, compete against VSolvit  
17 and pursue the Beech award.

18       162. At the time of Defendants' acquisition, misappropriation, and misuse of  
19 VSolvit's trade secrets, Defendants knew that they did not have VSolvit's consent, either  
20 express or implied, to share or use VSolvit's Confidential Information or trade secrets.  
21 Moreover, at the time Defendants downloaded and used VSolvit's Confidential Information  
22 and trade secrets, they knew or had reason to know that their knowledge of VSolvit's  
23 Confidential Information and trade secrets was derived solely and exclusively because of their  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1 agreement to use VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets solely and exclusively  
2 in conjunction with VSolvit's bid for Beech.

3 163. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' misappropriation of VSolvit's  
4 Confidential Information and trade secrets, VSolvit has suffered damages in an amount to be  
5 determined at trial, but in no event less than \$75,000.00.

7 164. Defendants' actions were wanton, willful, malicious, and in conscious  
8 disregard of VSolvit's rights, thus entitling VSolvit to monetary, exemplary, and punitive  
9 damages, plus attorneys' fees and costs.

**COUNT IV – Misappropriation of Trade Secrets  
(Nevada Trade Secrets Act, Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 600A.101, et seq.)  
(Against Defendants Sohum and CITI)**

165. VSolvit incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth and restated herein.

166. As set forth above, VSolvit's Confidential Information includes its trade secrets, which are related to products and services VSolvit uses in and intends to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including with the USDA and other federal government agencies.

167. VSolvit derives independent economic value, actual and/or potential, from its Confidential Information and trade secrets described herein not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from the disclosure or use of such information.

168. Prior to and during all times relevant to the Beech procurement, VSolvit has invested considerable amounts of time, money, and resources in developing and maintaining its valuable Confidential Information and trade secrets.

169. In order to protect its Confidential Information, VSolvit, among other things, restricts access to its Confidential Information to employees with a need-to-know; it requires its employees who will have access to such Confidential Information to sign non-disclosure

1 and confidentiality agreements; it limits teaming partners' access to Confidential Information  
 2 to specific employees with a need-to-know; it enters into non-disclosure and confidentiality  
 3 agreements with its teaming partners; and it tracks use of its Confidential Information,  
 4 including by tracking when documents are downloaded from share files. VSolvit also applies  
 5 restrictive confidentiality legends to Confidential Information to ensure that documents are  
 6 not shared inadvertently outside the small circle of individuals who are granted access to such  
 7 information.

8       170. Thus, VSolvit takes reasonable measures to protect and preserve the secrecy  
 9 and confidentiality of its Confidential Information and trade secrets.

10      171. VSolvit has spent many years and considerable sums of money and resources,  
 11 to develop its valuable confidential information concerning its business, competitive win  
 12 strategies, and Confidential Information.

13      172. VSolvit entered into confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements with  
 14 Sohum and CITI. Indeed, the parties entered into stand-alone non-disclosure agreements to  
 15 protect the confidentiality of information exchanged in furtherance of the Beech procurement.  
 16 In addition, Article 6 of the Agreement referenced the parties' non-disclosure agreements and  
 17 ensured that their confidentiality obligations would survive termination of the Agreement.

18      173. Defendants misappropriated VSolvit's trade secrets, in violation of the Nevada  
 19 Trade Secrets Act, Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 600A.010, et seq. Specifically, Defendants requested,  
 20 received, accessed, downloaded (including after Defendants knew they would compete  
 21 against VSolvit for the Beech procurement), VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade  
 22 secrets, and, on information and belief, have used VSolvit's Confidential Information and  
 23 trade secrets, including but not limited to VSolvit's procurement strategies, win theme details,  
 24 technical outlines, technical approaches, technical write-ups, experience narratives, staffing  
 25 plans, company profiles, key personnel resumes, and other confidential and proprietary  
 26 information, for Defendants' own commercial advantage to, among other things, compete  
 27 against VSolvit and pursue the Beech award.

28

1        174. At the time of Defendants' acquisition, misappropriation, and misuse of  
2 VSolvit's trade secrets, Defendants knew that they did not have VSolvit's consent, either  
3 express or implied, to share or use VSolvit's Confidential Information or trade secrets.  
4 Moreover, at the time Defendants downloaded and used VSolvit's Confidential Information  
5 and trade secrets, they knew or had reason to know that their knowledge of VSolvit's  
6 Confidential Information and trade secrets was derived solely and exclusively because of their  
7 agreement to use VSolvit's Confidential Information and trade secrets solely and exclusively  
8 in conjunction with VSolvit's bid for Beech.

9        175. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' misappropriation of VSolvit's  
10 Confidential Information and trade secrets, VSolvit has suffered damages in an amount to be  
11 determined at trial, but in no event less than \$75,000.00.

12        176. Defendants' actions were wanton, willful, malicious, and in conscious  
13 disregard of VSolvit's rights, thus entitling VSolvit to monetary, exemplary, and punitive  
14 damages, plus attorneys' fees and costs.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

16 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff VSolvit prays for judgment against Defendants, jointly and  
17 severally, and respectfully requests that this Court award the following relief:

18 1. An award of actual damages, compensatory damages, and consequential  
19 damages in an amount to be proven at the time of trial, but in no event less than \$1,000,000.00;

20 2. An award of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on such monetary relief;

3. An award of restitution and the disgorgement from the Defendants of all  
amounts obtained through their wrongful conduct;

23           4. An award of attorneys' fees and costs VSolvit incurs in litigating this dispute;  
24 and

25       5. Any and all other relief which this Court deems necessary and appropriate  
26 under the circumstances

## DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

28 Plaintiff hereby requests trial by jury on all matters so triable as of right

1 Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.

2 **MARQUIS AURBACH**

3 /s/ Christian T. Balducci

4 Christian T. Balducci, Esq., NV Bar No. 12688  
10001 Park Run Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145

5 Maurice VerStandig, NV Bar No. 15346  
6 **THE VERSTANDIG LAW FIRM, LLC**  
7 1452 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, #665  
Henderson, Nevada 89012

8 Matthew E. Feinberg (*pro hac vice*)  
9 Todd Reinecker (*pro hac vice*)  
Mansitan Sow (*pro hac vice*)  
Matthew T. Healy (*pro hac vice*)  
10 **PILIEROMAZZA PLLC**  
11 1001 G Street, NW, Suite 1100  
12 Washington, D.C. 20001  
13 *Attorneys for Plaintiff, VSolvit LLC.*

14 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

15 On August 30, 2024, I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document  
16 was filed using the Court's CM/ECF system, which will electronically notify all counsel of  
17 record.

18 Thomas Brownell, Esq.  
**HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP**  
19 1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 1700  
20 Tysons, Virginia 22102

21 Robert R. McCoy, Esq.  
**KAEMPFER CROWELL, LTD**  
22 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 650  
23 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135

24 Shimora L. Graves, Esq.  
**KAEMPFER CROWELL, LTD**  
25 50 West Liberty Street, Suite 700  
26 Reno, Nevada 89501

27 /s/ Kellie Piet

28 An employee of Marquis Aurbach

# **EXHIBIT**

# **A**

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Sohum Systems, and CITI  
T724-20889

This Teaming Agreement, together with the Exhibits and Attachments hereto (hereinafter referred to as this "Agreement"), is entered into and made effective as of June 13, 2022 ("Effective Date"), by and between:

1. **VSolvit LLC**, a Nevada limited liability company with an office located at 4171 Market Street, Suite 2, Ventura, CA 93003, (hereinafter referred to as "VSolvit"),
2. **Sohum Systems, LLC**, a Kansas limited liability company with an office located at 7900 College Boulevard, Suite 135, Overland Park, KS 66210 (hereinafter referred to as a "Sohum"), and
3. **Creative Information Technology, Inc. (CITI)**, a Maryland corporation with an office located at 7799 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500N, Falls Church, VA 22043 (hereinafter referred to as a "Subcontractor").

Prime Contractor (defined below) and Subcontractors may be individually referred to herein as a "Party" or together as the "Parties."

**WHEREAS**, the USDA (hereinafter referred to as "Customer") intends to issue a Solicitation No. TBD (hereinafter referred to as the "Solicitation") for the acquisition of USDA FPAC Beech (hereinafter referred to as the "Program");

**WHEREAS**, Prime Contractor intends to pursue the Program in response to the Solicitation and has proposed that Prime Contractor and Subcontractors team their diverse and complementary capabilities in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Subpart 9.6—Contractor Team Arrangements;

**WHEREAS**, Prime Contractor and Subcontractors have determined, by teaming their complementary talents and capabilities they will offer the Customer a superior combination of management, technical performance, cost, and delivery schedule to meet the Customer's requirements for the Program and will not significantly reduce competition for the Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Subcontractors wish to support Prime Contractor's pursuit of the Program as team members and, if Prime Contractor is awarded a prime contract (hereinafter referred to as the "Prime Contract") by the Customer and the Customer approves of Prime Contractor's use of Subcontractors, to execute and perform subcontracts (each hereinafter referred to as the "Subcontract") with Prime Contractor for the work described in the Statement of Work appended as Exhibit A hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter set forth, it is mutually agreed by and between the Parties as follows:

### ARTICLE 1 - RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES

**1.1** At this time, it is unclear under what contract vehicle the Program will be released. Once a contract vehicle is determined for the Program, VSolvit may, at its sole discretion, designate itself, one of its SBA-approved protégés (e.g., Sohum), one of its SBA-approved Mentor-Protégé Joint Venture (e.g., SV Synergies, LLC, a joint venture between VSolvit and Sohum), or one of its industry partners as the prime contractor for pursuit of the Program. The entity ultimately designated by VSolvit to serve as the prime contractor in pursuit of the Program shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Prime Contractor." The Parties agree to execute any and all separate teaming agreements under the same terms herein necessary to formalize the final arrangement based on VSolvit's prime contractor designation.

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Solum Systems, and CITI  
T724-20889

**1.2** In the event that a Prime Contract is awarded to Prime Contractor for the Program, Prime Contractor shall act as prime contractor and Subcontractors shall act as first-tier subcontractors to Prime Contractor under the Prime Contract.

**1.3** **Exclusivity:** Under this Agreement, Subcontractors and Prime Contractor commit to an exclusive agreement for Subcontractors to support Prime Contractor. Subcontractors shall not act as a Prime offeror, have not entered into any teaming arrangements with other offerors under the Program prior to this Agreement, nor will they enter into any teaming arrangements with other offerors under the Program after this Agreement, and that they shall otherwise be teamed exclusively with Prime Contractor with regards to the Program. Prime Contractor shall have the right to contract with other entities to supplement Prime Contractor's team for this Solicitation. Further, as a material condition under this Agreement, Subcontractors shall not compete directly or indirectly as a teammate or otherwise participate in proposal activities or capture activities for renewals, options or natural follow-on business to Prime Contractor's Prime Contract, without the prior written approval of Prime Contractor. Subcontractors agree that this restriction is reasonable and agreed to by Subcontractors in consideration for Prime Contractor's execution of this Agreement.

**1.4** Nothing herein shall be deemed to confer any right or impose any obligation or restriction on the Parties with respect to any other program effort or marketing activity at any time undertaken by the Parties, jointly or separately; or limit the rights of either Party to promote, market, sell, lease, license, or otherwise dispose of its standard products or services, so long as the Parties comply with the terms of Article 6.

### ARTICLE 2 - RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

**2.1** The Parties shall use good faith efforts to secure the Prime Contract under the Program. The Parties agree to work together to pursue the Program and to ensure that appropriate resources are assigned to the pursuit.

**2.2** Subcontractors' responsibilities in connection with the work under the Solicitation shall be as set forth in the Statement of Work appended as Exhibit A hereto.

**2.3** Upon mutual agreement, Subcontractors shall:

**2.3.1** Prepare appropriate and qualified personnel to support the pursuit and, on a schedule agreed to by the Parties, provide Prime Contractor with sufficient technical, management, price, past performance, and any other relevant information that is responsive to the portion of the Solicitation set forth in Exhibit A hereto for which Subcontractors are responsible;

**2.3.2** Provide accurate pricing information in sufficient detail to be responsive to the Solicitation and to permit the negotiation of a Prime Contract with the Customer and a subcontract between the Parties;

**2.3.3** Provide sanitized cost or pricing data to Prime Contractor in all instances where Prime Contractor is required by the Solicitation and/or Prime Contract or otherwise requested or required by the U.S. Government or Customer to provide cost or pricing data. Subcontractors agree that they shall submit their best possible price for the Program in accordance with its corporate policies and procedures. Subcontractors agree to cooperate with Prime Contractor in establishing a competitive pricing strategy for their proposal. Upon request of Prime Contractor, Subcontractors will provide certifications or other required pricing documentation or support,

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Sohum Systems, and CITI  
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unless Subcontractors are exempt from such disclosures. Subcontractors, at their option, may submit any proprietary supporting cost or pricing data directly to the Customer or appropriate Government audit agency; and

**2.3.4** Shall ensure that direct costs are within an acceptable range so that there is little price/cost realism risk; and

**2.3.5** Complete and provide to Prime Contractor all appropriate questionnaires, forms, representations, or certifications that may be required of subcontractors.

**2.3.6** Provide relevant past performance references in the required format in accordance with the Solicitation and Prime Contractor directions, and satisfy all requests for past performance information made in the Solicitation. Subcontractors agree to inform Prime Contractor of any potentially adverse past performance information as soon as possible after becoming aware of the adverse information.

**2.4** Prime Contractor shall, unless the restrictions on classified materials precludes otherwise:

**2.4.1** Furnish Subcontractors all solicitations, amendments and modifications thereto, and any other information pertinent to the work to be performed by Subcontractors that is issued in connection with the Program;

**2.4.2** Inform Subcontractors of significant events, dealings, and milestones regarding the Program;

**2.4.3** Maintain overall responsibility for pursuing the Program in accordance with the Solicitation;

**2.4.4** Identify Subcontractors as a proposed subcontractor for that portion of the work that will subsequently be defined per the SOW and resulting Subcontract using the process set forth in Exhibit A hereto, and using criteria that are mutually developed by the Prime and its first-tier subcontractors;

**2.4.5** Maintain on behalf of the team, exclusive responsibility for all contacts, communications, and negotiations with the Customer relating to the Program;

**2.4.6** Provide to Subcontractors a copy of all technical proposals (or portions thereof) submitted to the Customer that refer to the Subcontractors' proposed scope of work, or that would commit any of the Subcontractors' resources to perform work under the resulting Subcontract; and

**2.4.7** Prior to Prime Contractor's submission of its proposal to the Customer, and any subsequent revised proposal(s), Prime Contractor shall notify Subcontractors of any changes to Subcontractors' proposal to Prime Contractor, including but not limited to pricing adjustments, as it is utilized in Prime Contractor's proposal(s) to the Customer. Pricing adjustments to Subcontractors' proposals must be agreed to in writing by Subcontractors prior to submission to the Customer.

### ARTICLE 3 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**3.1** Subcontractors must immediately notify Prime Contractor if, at any time during the term of this Agreement, Subcontractors become aware that they have an actual or potential conflict of interest, including without limitation a relationship of any nature which may affect or which may reasonably appear to affect Subcontractors' objectivity or ability to perform the Work ("Conflict of Interest") in accordance with FAR Subpart 9.5.

**3.2** As a condition to this Agreement, Subcontractors must complete, execute, and adhere to the Subcontractor Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest ("OCCI") Statement, attached hereto as Exhibit B.

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Solum Systems, and CITI  
T724-20889

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**3.3** As a material obligation hereunder, Subcontractors agree that they will not, during the term of this Agreement, form a relationship that results in a Conflict of Interest.

### ARTICLE 4 - COSTS, EXPENSES, AND LIABILITY

**4.1** Each Party shall be liable for and bear its own costs and expenses incurred in connection with the performance of its other obligations under this Agreement.

**4.2** ALONG WITH WHAT IS PROVIDED FOR IN THAT CERTAIN NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, VS1622-20889, DATED JUNE 13, 2022 (the "NDA"), INCORPORATED INTO THIS AGREEMENT AS EXHIBIT C, THE PARTIES MAY BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, AND ANY OTHER TYPE OF INDIRECT DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, OR THE BREACH OF ANY TERMS THEREOF, UNDER ANY THEORY OF LAW OR EQUITY EVEN IF THAT PARTY HAS NOT BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. THIS INCLUDES RECOVERY OF LOSS OF USE, LOST INCOME, LOST OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS, LOST REVENUE OR BUSINESS, AND THE COST OF PROCURING SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES.

### ARTICLE 5 – SUBCONTRACT

**5.1** In the event Prime Contractor is awarded a Prime Contract for the Program, the Parties shall promptly enter into good faith negotiations to reach agreement with respect to the terms and conditions of a Subcontract. The Subcontract shall be executed within thirty (30) days from the date the Prime Contract is awarded or such longer period if the Parties mutually agree in writing.

**5.2** The Subcontract shall include, among other appropriate provisions, those provisions of the Prime Contract that by their terms should be passed on to the Subcontractors.

**5.3** The Subcontract shall be subject to the following conditions:

**5.3.1** Mutual written agreement upon a schedule, statement of work, and subcontract terms and conditions;

**5.3.2** Pricing terms and Subcontractors' scope of work shall be consistent with those terms set forth in any quotation or pricing submitted by Subcontractors and Exhibit A, or as otherwise mutually agreed to in writing between Prime Contractor and Subcontractors resulting from Prime Contractor's negotiations with the Customer. Pricing shall be consistent with the last prices proposed in writing by the Subcontractors and accepted by Prime Contractor; and

**5.3.3** Customer approval of Subcontractors as subcontractors to Prime Contractor, provided that Prime Contractor shall take reasonable action to obtain such Customer approval.

**5.4** The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Customer may mandate certain flow-down provisions in the Prime Contract and that such provisions may impact the terms of the Subcontract.

### ARTICLE 6 - DISCLOSURE AND PROTECTION OF PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

**6.1** During the term of this Agreement, the Parties may exchange proprietary and confidential information. Such disclosures shall be made in accordance with the NDA, the terms of which may survive the termination of this Agreement.

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Sohum Systems, and CITI  
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**6.2** To the extent that the obligations of the Parties hereunder require or involve access to information protected under the security laws of any country, the regulations, provisions, and instructions contained in applicable government security laws and manuals shall apply.

### ARTICLE 7- INTELLECTUAL AND PROPRIETARY PROPERTY RIGHTS

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as granting to any party (including the Customer, the Parties to this Agreement, the U.S. Government or any third party) a license, express or implied, under any patent, copyright, trade secret, or other intellectual property right now or hereafter owned, obtained, or licensable by a Party to this Agreement. Any intellectual property made in the performance of this Agreement solely by the personnel of one Party shall be or remain the sole and exclusive property of that Party, regardless of whether it is completed or reduced to practice thereafter. In the event that employees of the Parties jointly produce copyrightable material, copyright registration shall be filed by attorneys mutually acceptable to both Parties, such material shall be jointly owned and copyrighted with rights reserved for both Parties, and both Parties shall share equally in the cost of registering the copyright. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this clause is intended to extend property claims in a manner that conflicts with standing U.S. law.

### ARTICLE 8 - INVENTIONS

If during the performance of this Agreement inventions result, the following shall apply: each invention, discovery, or improvement (hereinafter referred to as "**Invention**") conceived or first actually reduced to practice by one or more employees of one of the Parties, shall be the sole property of the Party whose employee or employees made the Invention. Any Inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice jointly by employees of both Parties hereto shall be jointly owned by both Parties. Patent applications covering such joint Inventions shall be filed by attorneys mutually acceptable to both Parties and the cost therefore shall be equally shared. In the event one of the Parties does not desire to file a patent application covering a joint Invention in any particular country or to equally share in the expenses therefore, the other Party shall have the right, at its own expense, to file such application and shall have control over the prosecution of such application and maintenance of any patent which may issue thereon, including the sole right to abandon such application or patent at any time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this clause is intended to extend property claims in a manner that conflicts with standing U.S. law.

### ARTICLE 9 – PUBLICITY

**9.1** Any publicity or advertising in connection with the subject matter of this Agreement proposed by Subcontractors shall be subject to the prior written approval of the Prime Contractor, if such approval is required. The Prime Contractor will not grant such approval without having first obtained the written approval of the Customer. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld by the Prime Contractor.

**9.2** No name, logo, and/or trademark of a Party hereto may be used by the other for any purpose without the prior written approval of such Party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

**9.3** Notwithstanding the foregoing, the content of this Agreement may be made known to appropriate Customer and/or U.S. Government representatives.

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Sohum Systems, and CITI  
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### ARTICLE 10- TERM AND TERMINATION

**10.1** This Agreement shall become effective as of the Effective Date and shall terminate upon the earliest of the following occurrences, unless mutually extended in writing:

- 10.1.1** Cancellation of the Program, or formal retraction of the Solicitation;
- 10.1.2** The Customer materially changes the requirements of the Solicitation and both Parties agree that a teaming agreement is no longer in the best interests of the Parties;
- 10.1.3** The Customer releases the Solicitation under a different competition type (e.g., full and open, set aside) than what is specified in this Agreement.
- 10.1.4** Award of a prime contract to a party other than Prime Contractor (unless such award has been formally protested by Prime Contractor and the Parties agreed to remain as a team during the pendency of the protest);
- 10.1.5** Award of a negotiated subcontract by Prime Contractor to Subcontractors that reflects the Parties' obligations set forth in pertinent provisions of this Agreement, in which case the terms of the Subcontract shall govern the relationship between the Parties and shall supersede the terms hereof;
- 10.1.6** The Customer (or appropriate U.S. Government agency) specifically rejects the portion of the proposal relating to Subcontractors' work or disapproves the intended award of a subcontract to Subcontractors; provided that the terms of the Subcontract between Prime Contractor and Subcontractors cannot be reasonably altered or changed to effect approval thereof by the Customer (or the U.S. Government);
- 10.1.7** Mutual consent of the Parties as set forth in a rescission agreement.
- 10.1.8** Inability of the Parties negotiating in good faith to finalize the terms of a subcontract within thirty (30) days from the date of the commencement of negotiations between Prime Contractor and Subcontractors, or such longer period as allowed by Section 5.1 herein;
- 10.1.9** A decision by either Party that it does not wish to participate in the Procurement or in any response to the Solicitation, in any manner, provided that such decision is communicated in writing to the other Party at least thirty (30) days prior to the due date of the initial proposal, offer or quote;
- 10.1.10** The elapse of one (1) year after the Effective Date hereof, provided however, that this Agreement shall be extended automatically for one (1) additional year if the Customer has not yet awarded the Prime Contract, or by mutual agreement for a reasonable period of time for completion of pre-contract procurement activities by the Customer, including, without limitation, review and approval of the Prime Contract award, if such have been initiated but not completed by the termination date of this Agreement, or to secure the U.S. Government's Contracting Officer consent/approval for the placement of the Subcontract between Prime Contractor and Subcontractors, to the extent such consent/approval is required by the Prime Contract;
- 10.1.11** If either Party is suspended, debarred or otherwise unable to perform its obligations in connection with this Agreement or the Program;
- 10.1.12** If either Party becomes insolvent, files for bankruptcy, is the subject of involuntary bankruptcy proceedings, has a receiver appointed, or has its assets assigned; or
- 10.1.13** If either Party determines that an organizational conflict of interest (OCI) exists in accordance with FAR Subpart 9.5 that cannot be reasonably mitigated to the satisfaction of the Customer, despite the submission of an OCI Mitigation Plan for the Customer's review and approval; or
- 10.1.14** Either Party does not possess, or is unable to obtain, the requisite security clearance(s).

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Sohum Systems, and CITI  
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### 10.2 RESERVED

### 10.3 RESERVED

**10.4** Any Party may, for its convenience, terminate this Agreement, or any portion thereof, upon written notice to the other Parties.

**10.5** Either Party may terminate this Agreement for material breach by the other Party following written notification that the other Party has failed to perform its obligations(s), unless the defaulting Party cures such breach or default in all material respects within ten (10) days after receiving written notice of such breach or default.

## ARTICLE 11 - INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

**11.1** The Parties agree that the purpose of this Agreement is to form a "Contractor Team Arrangement" as provided in Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 9.6, and more specifically defined in Subpart 9.601 (2). Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute, create, give effect to, or otherwise recognize a joint venture, partnership, or formal business entity of any kind between the Parties and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be limited to those expressly set forth herein. It is the understanding of both Parties that, as of the Effective Date, there is adequate competition in the industry for both the Prime Contractor's and Subcontractors' scope of work and that neither Party is the sole provider of any single product or service that is essential to compete for award of the Program.

**11.2** It is expressly understood that both Prime Contractor and Subcontractors are, and shall remain at all times, independent contractors pursuant to this Agreement and nothing herein shall be construed as constituting, either directly or indirectly, Prime Contractor or Subcontractors as an agent, servant, representative or employee of the other. Each Party agrees that it does not have, nor shall it hold itself out as having, any right, power, or authority to create any contract obligation, express or implied, on behalf of, in the name of, or binding upon the other and agrees not to undertake any action which would tend to mislead anyone in this regard.

**11.3** Nothing herein shall be construed as providing for joint control, joint property, joint liability for losses and expenses or joint participation in profits or losses. No relationship other than that created by and set forth in this Agreement shall be established by any reference to the Parties operating as a "team" or "teammates."

## ARTICLE 12 - ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS

The Parties agree to comply with the requirements of the Procurement Integrity Act (41 U.S.C. 423), the Byrd Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352), as amended by the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1996, applicable federal gift/gratuity and bribery laws and any implementing regulations issued pursuant thereto. Each Party shall require any consultants who are retained by the Party to provide services, information, advice or direction in connection with the work to be performed on such Party's behalf hereunder or in any manner connected with the Solicitation to comply with all reporting, disclosure and certification requirements under the Solicitation and any laws or regulations which now exist or may become effective during the term of this Agreement.

## TEAMING AGREEMENT

VSolvit, Sohum Systems, and CITI  
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### ARTICLE 13 - COMPLIANCE WITH EXPORT AND IMPORT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

**13.1** Each Party agrees to comply with all applicable U.S. export and import laws and regulations, including the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) governing the export of technical data and provision of defense services. Performance of this Agreement, including the NDA, and the Subcontract contemplated hereunder are subject to obtaining any licenses or approvals which may be required under the export or import laws or regulations of any country or countries controlling or having jurisdiction over exports or imports covered or contemplated hereunder, including, but not limited to, all applicable U.S. laws and regulations governing the export and import of technical data.

**13.2** The Parties further acknowledge that neither this Agreement nor any Subcontract which may result from this Agreement which contemplates the export of technical data or defense services subject to the ITAR shall be binding until a Technical Assistance Agreement setting forth the terms and conditions governing the export of technical data or defense services from the United States as prescribed in the ITAR has been approved by the requisite U.S. Government authorities.

### ARTICLE 14 – DISPUTES

**14.1** Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this Agreement that relates to (a) a Party's breach of confidentiality obligations; (b) exclusivity under this Agreement; (c) infringement or misappropriation of intellectual property rights; or (d) requests for injunctive relief of any kind including, without limitation, the right of a Party to seek a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunctive or other equitable relief to preserve the status quo or prevent irreparable harm, shall be submitted to and finally resolved by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Nevada. In the event that an action is commenced by either Party with respect to this Agreement, the substantially prevailing Party (as determined by the court) shall be entitled to recover its reasonable costs and attorney's fees from the other Party.

**14.2** Disputes, claims or controversies (other than those specified in Section 14.1 above) arising out of or relating to this Agreement (hereinafter "**Arbitration Claims**") that cannot otherwise be resolved by good faith negotiations of the Parties, shall, at the request of a Party, be settled by binding arbitration in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) that are then in effect. The Parties shall attempt to agree upon the selection of a single arbitrator who is unrelated to either Party and has demonstrable experience in the area of federal procurement law. In the event the Parties are unable to select a mutually acceptable arbitrator, the arbitrator shall be appointed by the AAA. All arbitration proceedings shall be held in the State of Nevada. The arbitrator's costs shall be borne equally by the Parties and each Party shall be responsible for its own preparation, discovery, and internal and external costs incurred to prosecute or defend the Arbitration Claim. The prevailing Party in any arbitration proceeding will be entitled to, in addition to any other relief granted, recover its reasonable costs and attorney's fees, as determined by the arbitrator. The arbitrator shall be bound by the express provisions of this Agreement in deciding any Arbitration Claim. The determination of the arbitrator shall be final, and except as provided by law, shall not be subject to appeal or judicial review. Any court of competent jurisdiction may enforce any award or determination rendered by the arbitrator. The arbitrator shall not have the authority to award damages for lost profits or consequential damages, or special, punitive, or other exemplary damages of any sort.

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### ARTICLE 15 – MISCELLANEOUS

**15.1 Price Targets.** This Agreement is subject to the Subcontractors' ability to meet the price targets as set by the Prime Contractor.

**15.2 Regulatory Compliance.** This Agreement is subject to all applicable regulations, including, without limitation, the limitations on subcontracting rules prescribed in 13 C.F.R. § 125.6.

**15.3 Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be subject to, and construed and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the State of Nevada without regard to the conflict of laws and provisions thereof.

**15.4 Notices.** All notices, requests, demands and other communications under this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed duly given, unless otherwise expressly indicated to the contrary in this Agreement: (a) when personally delivered; (b) upon receipt of a telephone facsimile transmission with a confirmed telephonic transmission answer back; (c) or via email provided that such notice, request, demand or other communication is also sent by a nationally recognized overnight courier; (d) three (3) days after having been deposited in the United States mail, certified or registered, return receipt requested, postage prepaid; or (e) one (1) business day after having been dispatched by a nationally recognized overnight courier service, addressed to the Parties or their permitted assigns at the following address (or at such other address or number as is given in writing by either Party to the other):

***Notices to Prime Contractor shall be sent to:***

VSolvit LLC  
4171 Market Street, Suite 2  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Attention: Stephen Lee  
Phone: (714) 917-9506  
FAX: (805) 409-4757  
Email: contract.tasks@vsolvit.com

***Notices to Subcontractor shall be sent to:***

Creative Information Technology, Inc. (CITI)  
7799 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500N  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
Attention: Rachana Kulkarni  
Phone: (703) 462-3062  
FAX: (571) 633-1747  
Email: rkulkarni@citi-us.com

***Notices to Subcontractor shall be sent to:***

Sohum Systems, LLC  
9232 W 143rd Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66221  
Attention: Srinivas Moshugu  
Phone: (913) 221-7204/F (913) 273-0269  
Email: reddy@sohumsystems.com

**15.5 Assignment/Binding Effect.** No Party shall assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the other Parties, which will not be unreasonably

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withheld. Any change of control of a Party shall be deemed an assignment of this Agreement. For purposes of this Agreement, "change of control" means any merger, consolidation, sale of all or substantially all of the assets or sale of a substantial block of stock, of a Party. Either Party shall have the right to assign this Agreement and its rights and obligations hereunder in whole, but not in part, to any corporation or other entity with or into which that Party may hereafter merge or consolidate, or to which that Party may transfer all or a portion of its assets, if in any such case said corporation or other entity shall, by operation of law or expressly in writing, assume all obligations of that Party hereunder as fully as if it had been originally made a party hereto. Any other assignment of this Agreement by either Party shall be subject to the other Parties' prior written consent, which will not be unreasonably withheld. Any attempted assignment that is inconsistent with this Article 15.5 shall be void. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the valid successors and assigns of the Parties.

**15.6 Severability.** In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement, but this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid or illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein. Upon such determination that any term or other provision is invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the court or other tribunal making such determination is authorized and instructed to modify this Agreement so as to effect the original intent of the parties as closely as possible so that the transactions and agreements contemplated herein are consummated as originally contemplated to the fullest extent possible.

**15.7 Headings.** The headings and sub-heading included in this Agreement are for convenience only and do not in any way alter or affect the terms of this Agreement.

**15.8 Force Majeure.** Neither Party shall be liable or deemed to be in default for any delay, interruption, or failure in performance under this Agreement resulting from the following events: acts of God; acts of civil or military authority; acts of the public enemy; war; accidents; fire; explosions; power surges; earthquakes, floods and unusually severe weather; strikes or labor disputes; terrorism or threats of terrorism; delays in transportation or delivery outside the reasonable control of the affected party; epidemics; and any similar event beyond the affected Party's reasonable control.

**15.9 Non-Solicitation of Employees.** During the term of this Agreement and any resulting Subcontract, and for a period of one (1) year following expiration or termination of this Agreement and any resulting Subcontract, neither Party shall directly or indirectly solicit for hire or knowingly allow any of its employees, agents, officers or representatives to directly or indirectly solicit for hire any employee or employees of the other Party who are materially involved with the performance of this Agreement or any resulting Subcontract. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement will not prohibit (a) solicitations through advertising or other publications of general circulation or (b) the hiring of any employee of a Party who contacts the other Party without such other Party having solicited such employee.

**15.10 Survivability.** Articles 4, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14, as well as the NDA obligations, unless otherwise superseded by a subsequent grant between the Parties, shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

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**15.11 Waiver.** The failure of either Party to insist upon the performance of any provision herein, or to exercise any right or privilege granted to it hereunder, shall not be construed as a waiver of such provision, and the same shall continue in full force.

**15.12 Representations.** Each Party to this Agreement represents and warrants to the other Party that: (a) such Party has the full corporate right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform all acts required of it hereunder; (b) the execution of this Agreement by such Party, and the performance by such Party of its obligations and duties hereunder, do not and will not violate any agreement to which such Party is a Party or by which it is otherwise bound; (c) when executed and delivered by such Party, this Agreement will constitute the legal, valid and binding obligation of such Party, enforceable against such Party in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; (d) it is not subject to any pending or threatened litigation or governmental action that could interfere with its performance of this Agreement; and (e) such Party, in the performance of this Agreement, will comply with and be bound by all applicable laws, rules and regulations of the U.S. Government, including without limitation, export/import, federal gift/gratuity and bribery laws. Each Party shall require any consultants that it retains to provide services, information, advice or direction in connection with the work to be performed on such Party's behalf hereunder or in any manner connected with the Solicitation to comply with all reporting, disclosure and certification requirements under the Solicitation and any laws or regulations which now exist or may become effective during the term of this Agreement. Neither Party has been induced to enter into this Agreement by any representations or promises not specifically stated herein.

**15.13 Entire Agreement/Modification.** This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding between the Parties and supersedes any previous or contemporaneous communications, representations, agreements, and understandings, oral or written, between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. The Parties do not intend by this Agreement to modify the terms of any separate agreement not mentioned herein. This Agreement may not be modified in any manner except by a mutually acceptable written amendment executed by all Parties.

(signature page follows)

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Agreement was signed by the Parties under the hands of their duly authorized officers and made effective as of the Effective Date.

**VSolvit LLC**

Signature:   
Name: Stephen Lee  
Title: General Counsel  
Date: June 14, 2022

**Creative Information Technology, Inc. (CITI)**

Signature:   
Name: Rachana Kulkarni  
Title: Sr. VP, Federal Services  
Date: June 14, 2022

**Sohum Systems, LLC**

Signature:   
Name: Srinivas Moshugu  
Title: CEO  
Date: 06/14/2022

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### TEAMING AGREEMENT

#### Exhibit A - STATEMENT OF WORK

This Exhibit A outlines the agreement between the Parties with respect to any work from the Prime Contract that may be assigned by Prime Contractor to Subcontractors under the Subcontract.

A draft Statement of Work has not been promulgated at this time and expected service requirements will be based on the Solicitation. Work may be allocated to the Subcontractors in any functional area of the Statement of Work in which the experience and the expertise of the Subcontractors are applicable, as determined by Prime Contractor and this SOW. All work share allocation, percent or actual dollars, will be as specified below.

Assuming Prime Contractor is awarded the Prime Contract, the Parties agree to the following with regard to Subcontractors role on the Program and subsequent work share:

- Specific levels of effort and rates shall be defined in the Subcontract. It is understood that all organizational conflict of interest (OCI) provisions of the contract or task order shall take precedence and may exclude Subcontractors' participation on any specific task order.
- For any small business award (e.g., SB, 8(a), WOSB), it is anticipated that Prime Contractor will not pay more than 50 percent of the amount paid by the Government for contract performance to subcontractors that are not similarly situated entities. The work percentages established below are based on the contract level and will play a major role in establishing work share and which team member may be selected to accomplish any specific work.
- **All contemplated workshare hereunder to other than small businesses are subject to change based on compliance with all applicable regulations, namely but not exclusively, FAR Clause 52.219-14 Limitations on Subcontracting, and any other small business workshare terms in the solicitation for the Program (e.g., subcontracting plan).**
- At this time, the Subcontractors' allocated workshares shall be subject to their ability to provide qualified personnel in a timely manner and within cost constraints, as well as satisfactory performance of work and continued Customer satisfaction regarding that work performance. Prime Contractor will notify the Subcontractors in writing of any staff performance issues warranting replacement. In the event of such notice, Subcontractors shall have two weeks from the date of receipt of the notice (or a shorter period if stipulated by the Customer) to propose to Prime Contractor a replacement candidate and provide the resume of the replacement candidate. Upon Prime Contractor's receipt of the replacement candidate's resume, Prime Contractor shall either accept or reject the proposed candidate within 48 hours (or a longer period of time if the Customer requires review). If the Subcontractors fail to timely correct the staff performance issue, Prime Contractor shall have the right to replace that Subcontractor staff member at its sole discretion.
- Subcontractors' actual work will be determined by several factors, including, without limitation: (1) the Customer's acceptance of Subcontractors under the Prime Contract; (2) Subcontractors' ability to provide professional services consistent with performance standards established by Prime Contractor and the Customer; (3) Subcontractors' ability to bid and maintain competitive rates within Prime Contractor's price targets; (4) Subcontractors' ability to provide fully qualified personnel as and when requested by Prime Contractor; (5) the scope and nature of tasking funded/ordered by the Customer; and (6) any potential, actual, or perceived organizational conflicts of interest, as determined by Prime Contractor or Customer.

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The Parties agree that this Exhibit A is a preliminary and tentative description of work based on current understanding and available information. The Solicitation will include requirements for work under the Prime Contract, including the statement of work, scope, and levels of effort. Each Party reserves the right to modify this Exhibit A based on the Program or Solicitation requirements, Prime Contractor's and the Customer's subcontracting goals, Subcontractors' representations and certifications, Subcontractors' performance under this Agreement and the Subcontract, and other factors outlined herein.

Workshare for the Parties under the Program shall be as follows:

- [REDACTED]

**Revenue Sharing**

Each company will initially start with initial workshare percentage as proposed above. We will true up revenue share at the end of each quarter helping all partners to reach their desired goals.

**WRAP Rate for BEECH contract for all three partners:**

Fringe Benefit – TBD

OH – TBD

G&A – TBD

Profit – TBD

**Total WRAP Rate – TBD (rounded)**

The exact wrap rate will be decided at the time of pricing on the proposal effort.

NITAAC fee for CIOSP3 contract, is TBD percentage of the revenue.

In addition, [REDACTED].

**Profit Sharing – Scenario 1 – Revenue is unbalanced but profits are shared equally**

Each company will use a wrap rate of TBD ([REDACTED]) with [REDACTED] assumed to be in profits. Assuming quarterly revenue of [REDACTED] of one company, [REDACTED] for other company and [REDACTED] for third company, we will split the total profits equally and will true up the profits at the end of each quarter. The total profits for the combined CTA will be [REDACTED]. The total profits each company will get is [REDACTED].

**Profit Sharing – Scenario 2 – Employee vs Corp to Corp**

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There may be a scenario where one company may have employees and other company may have disproportionate number of corporate to corporate candidates. For the purpose of this informal CTA, we will consider the WRAP rate for employees to be TBD ( [REDACTED] ) and profits to be [REDACTED] and for corp to corp candidates, wrap rate will be TBD [REDACTED] ( [REDACTED] ) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] profit. Quarterly profit will be calculated as follows for each company:

Resources	Salary	Bill Rate	Minimum Allowable Profit
Employee	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Corp-to-Corp	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

In case of losses on a labor category, company will try to make up for the losses with profits in other labor categories and calculate the blended profit or loss. If the company does not achieve [REDACTED] profit overall, then the other companies will share their profits with the company if other companies are making [REDACTED] or higher.

**Profit Sharing – Scenario 3 – One company making losses or making less profit than [REDACTED]**

Company A

Resources	Salary	Bill Rate	Profit
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

In this scenario, Company A should be making a profit of [REDACTED] but instead made a profit of [REDACTED] on first labor category. Company B and C will share their profits with Company A to equalize the profits between all three companies.

There are many scenarios possible, but these three scenario provides a summary of some possible cases and we will work them out as they are presented to the board. **Goal is to be fair in revenue sharing and profit sharing!**

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### TEAMING AGREEMENT

#### Exhibit B – SUBCONTRACTORS’ OCCI STATEMENT

#### SUBCONTRACTOR ORGANIZATIONAL AND CONSULTANT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The undersigned subcontractors for the opportunity referenced in the Agreement, (hereinafter, “Subcontractors”) acknowledge and understand the subject solicitation’s requirements to identify any potential or actual Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest (“OCCI”) as described in Federal Acquisition Regulation (“FAR”) Subpart 9.5.

Subcontractors hereby represent that they are aware of no past, present, or currently planned interest (financial, contractual, organizational, or otherwise) or activity relating to the work to be performed under the contract resulting from the subject solicitation that would indicate any impairment upon their ability to render impartial, technically sound, and objective assistance or advice or result in the appearance that they may have an unfair competitive advantage. This representation applies to all affiliates of Subcontractors and their proposed consultants or subcontractors of any tier.

For the subject contract, Subcontractors represent and warrant that they are able to provide impartial and objective assistance or advice to the customer. Subcontractors’ other activities, relationships, contracts, and circumstances will not impair their objectivity or impartiality in serving the customer under the subject contract. Subcontractors do not have any other work with the customer that would raise concerns of bias or partiality. Subcontractors have not obtained access to nonpublic information during the performance of other contracts that will give them an unfair competitive advantage over other offerors in pursuing the subject opportunity.

Lastly, Subcontractors, in performing prior contracts, have not established the ground rules for the subject procurement. Specifically, Subcontractors have not developed any specifications, evaluation factors, or similar documents for this procurement. Subcontractors did not have any influence whatsoever in the preparation and issuance of the subject solicitation, and did not otherwise provide any other acquisition-related support in relation to the subject solicitation.

Given the above, Subcontractors firmly believe that no actual or potential conflict exists. However, should an actual conflict arise in the future during contract performance, or should Subcontractors have any noteworthy concerns or issues regarding a potential conflict at any point in time, Subcontractors shall: (1) fully and immediately notify Prime Contractor in writing of the conflict and the steps they have taken or proposes to take to address the conflict; (2) avoid, neutralize, or mitigate the conflict by executing their internal actions; and (3) confirm with Prime Contractor once the actual or potential conflict has been neutralized or mitigated. Subcontractors shall fully cooperate with Prime Contractor to address the conflict with the customer to its satisfaction.

Subcontractors acknowledge and agree that, if at any point in time prior to or after award of the contract, an actual or potential conflict attributable to Subcontractors is discovered, Prime Contractor may, subject to its sole discretion and/or the direction of the Customer, firewall Subcontractors from any portion of the work or eliminate Subcontractors from the team and terminate any corresponding agreements between Prime Contractor and Subcontractors without penalty.

Subcontractors acknowledge and understand that, if Subcontractors’ actual or potential conflicts results

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in damage or harm to Prime Contractor, Prime Contractor will pursue all available remedies to protect its rights and interests to the fullest extent of the law.

Subcontractors hereby certify that the information contained in this certification is accurate, complete, and current.

**Sohum Systems, LLC**

Signature:



Name:

srinivas moshugu

Title:

ceo

Organization:

, Sohum Systems LLC

Date:

06/14/2022**Creative Information Technology, Inc. (CITI)**

Signature:



Name:

Rachana Kulkarni

Title:

Sr. VP, Federal Services

Organization:

Creative Information Technology, Inc.

Date:

June 14, 2022

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### TEAMING AGREEMENT

#### Exhibit C – MUTUAL NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

**VS1622-20889**

This Non-Disclosure Agreement (“**Agreement**”) is made as of June 13, 2022 (“**Effective Date**”), by and among:

1. VSolvit LLC, a Nevada limited liability company with an office located at 4171 Market Street, Suite 2, Ventura, CA 93003, (“**VSolvit**”),
2. Creative Information Technology, Inc. (CITI), a Maryland corporation with an office located at 7799 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500N, Falls Church, VA 22043 (“**CITI**”), and
3. Sohum Systems, LLC, a Kansas limited liability company with an office located at 7900 College Boulevard, Suite 135, Overland Park, KS 66210 (“**Sohum**”).

VSolvit, CITI, and Sohum are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**Parties**” and individually as a “**Party**.” The Party receiving Confidential Information or Trade Secrets, as defined below, shall be referred to as the “**Confidant**” and the Party disclosing the Confidential Information or Trade Secrets shall be referred to as the “**Owner**.”

#### RECITALS

- A. The Parties own and possess certain Confidential Information and Trade Secrets, as hereinafter defined.
- B. The Parties desire to use the Confidential Information and Trade Secrets solely for the purpose of jointly pursuing RFPs released by USDA/FPAC-BC for USDA FPAC Beech (“**Purpose**”).

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. “**Confidential Information**” shall mean all nonpublic information other than Trade Secrets that either Party discloses hereunder, whether in writing, electronically, or orally and in any form (tangible or intangible), that is confidential, the confidentiality of which the Owner has taken reasonable efforts to maintain its secrecy, including, but not limited to, (a) if provided in writing or other tangible format, marking the writing or including a legend therein as “Confidential” or “Proprietary”, (b) if provided orally, identifying the information as confidential, in writing, within fifteen (15) days from such disclosure, or (c) is information which is derived from the information in (a) or (b).
2. Confidential Information does not include: (i) any information which now or hereafter is generally available to and known by the public other than as a result of a disclosure in violation of this Agreement; (ii) information which was known to the Confidant at the time of disclosure, as demonstrated by written records; (iii) information rightfully received by the Confidant from a third party without a duty of confidentiality; (iv) information independently developed by the Confidant without reference or reliance on the Confidential Information of the Owner; and (v) any other information that all the Parties agree in writing is not confidential.

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3. Confidential Information shall be used solely for the Purpose and not for any other purpose, and such information will be kept confidential by the Confidant. With the advance written permission of the Owner, the Confidant may disclose the Confidential Information or portions thereof, to those of its directors and officers, representatives or advisors ("Representatives") who need to know such information and who have signed like agreements of non-disclosure. In requesting permission from the Owner, the Confidant shall provide the identity of the Representatives and all relevant biographical information, including but not limited to, any outside employment, affiliations and potential conflicts of interest. Confidant shall not disclose Confidential Information to any other party without the prior written consent of the Owner. Each Party agrees to exercise the same degree of care with the other Parties' Confidential Information as it applies to its own Confidential Information, but in no event less than reasonable care, to prevent access to the Confidential Information by persons not authorized by the terms of this Agreement to have such access. Confidential Information shall not be copied or reproduced by the Confidant without the express written consent of the Owner, except for such copies as may be reasonably required for accomplishment of the Purpose.
4. The Confidant may disclose Confidential Information pursuant to a valid order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or government agency, administrative agency or by any rule or regulation, or by subpoena, or any other administrative or legal process, or by applicable regulatory or professional standards, provided that prior to any such disclosure, the Confidant, to the extent permitted by applicable law, provides the Owner prior written notice of such obligation and the opportunity to oppose such disclosure or obtain a protective order. The Confidant agrees to provide reasonable assistance to the Owner in opposing such disclosure or obtaining a protective order preventing or narrowing the scope of such disclosure and/or use of Confidential Information and shall disclose such Confidential Information only to the extent necessary to comply with such disclosure obligations.
5. All Confidential Information disclosed hereunder shall remain the property of the Owner. Each Party shall keep a record of the Confidential Information furnished to it and the location of such Confidential Information, including any copies made by the Confidant. Upon termination of this Agreement, or upon the demand of the Owner, the Confidant shall promptly return or destroy all of the Confidential Information and all copies thereof in its possession, custody or control, or in the possession, custody or control of its Representatives, or otherwise received, produced or disseminated by the Confidant, and Confidant shall make no further use of the Confidential Information. Upon request, the Confidant shall provide the other Parties with written certification of destruction.
6. This Agreement shall terminate within three (3) years from the Effective Date or upon issuance of thirty (30) days prior written notice from one Party to another. Termination shall not, however, affect the rights and obligations contained herein with respect to Confidential Information disclosed hereunder prior to termination which shall continue for a period of three (3) years from the date of termination of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the above, the obligation to protect proprietary information that relates to either Party's intellectual property (e.g., copyright, patents, trade secrets) shall survive termination and until legal protection thereof is no longer applicable.
7. Each Party agrees to be responsible for enforcing the confidentiality of the Confidential Information provided to it, and agrees to take such action, legal or otherwise, to the extent necessary to prevent any disclosure by it, or any of its Representatives, of any of the Confidential Information. In the event the

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Owner is required to initiate any action or proceeding to enforce the Confidant's, or any Representative's, obligations hereunder, or in the event of a breach by the Confidant's, or any Representative's, obligations hereunder, the Confidant agrees to reimburse the Owner for all loss, cost, liability, damage and expense, included, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, incurred by the Owner in connection with, related to, or resulting from such action, proceeding or breach. It is further understood and agreed that money damages alone may not be a sufficient remedy for any breach of this Agreement by the Confidant, and/or its Representatives, and that the Owner may be entitled to seek specific performance and injunctive relief as remedies for any such breach. Such remedies shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies for a breach of this Agreement, but shall be in addition to all other remedies available at law or equity. This does not preclude employees or subcontractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information as outlined in FAR clauses 52.203-18 and 52.203-19.

8. Neither the execution of this Agreement nor the furnishing of any information hereunder shall be construed as granting either expressly or by implication, estoppel, or otherwise, any license to make, use, or sell any Confidential Information under any discovery, invention, patent, trade secret, copyright or other form of intellectual property now or hereafter owned by or controlled by the Owner.
9. Nothing in this Agreement shall grant to any Party the right to make commitments of any kind, for or on behalf of any other Party. This Agreement is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as a joint venture, partnership, or other formal business organization and no Party shall have the right or obligation to share any of the profits or bear any of the losses of any other Party under any contract or subcontract performed in conjunction herewith.
10. This Agreement shall not be construed in any manner to be an obligation to enter into a subcontract or contract or to result in any claim whatsoever by a Party against the other Parties for reimbursement of cost for any effort expended.
11. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada, without regard to the conflict or choice of law provisions thereof. The Parties hereto submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any Federal or State court located in the State of Nevada, Clark County, in connection with any matter arising under this Agreement.
12. Any notice or other communication made or given by any Party in connection with this Agreement shall be sent via facsimile (with confirmation) or by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or by courier service addressed to the other Parties at their addresses set forth below:

Sohum Systems, LLC  
7900 College Boulevard, Suite 135  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
Attn: Srinivas Moshugu  
Phone: (913) 221-7204  
Fax: (913) 273-0269  
Email: reddy@sohumsystems.com

VSolvit LLC  
4171 Market Street, Suite 2  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Attn: Stephen Lee  
Phone: (805) 850-1253  
Fax: (805) 409-4757  
Email: contract.tasks@vsolvit.com

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Creative Information Technology, Inc. (CITI)

7799 Leesburg Pike, Ste. 500N

Falls Church, VA 22043

Attention: Rachana Kulkarni

Telephone: (703) 462-3062

FAX:

E-mail: rkulkarni@citi-us.com

13. Confidential Information and Trade Secrets disclosed hereunder may be export controlled and subject to the laws and regulations of the United States pertaining to export control. Therefore, all Parties agree to comply with all the applicable requirements of said laws and regulations of the United States including but not limited to, the International Traffic In Arms Regulations (ITAR), the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). In particular, all Parties warrant that they will not disclose any export controlled Information provided hereunder to a Non United States Person without prior U.S. Government approval to include use of exceptions/exemptions and will notify other Parties in writing regarding disclosure and the authorization used.
14. No Party shall assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the other Parties, which will not be unreasonably withheld. Any change of control of a Party shall be deemed an assignment of this Agreement. For purposes of this Agreement, "change of control" means any merger, consolidation, sale of all or substantially all of the assets or sale of a substantial block of stock, of a Party. Any attempted assignment that is inconsistent with this Paragraph 14 shall be void. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the valid successors and assigns of the Parties.
15. This Agreement contains the entire agreement among the Parties with respect to confidentiality and may only be modified by an amendment executed in writing and signed by all Parties.
16. The waiver or failure to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not operate as a waiver of any future breach of such provision or any other provision.
17. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement, but this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid or illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein. Upon such determination that any term or other provision is invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the court or other tribunal making such determination is authorized and instructed to modify this Agreement so as to effect the original intent of the parties as closely as possible so that the transactions and agreements contemplated herein are consummated as originally contemplated to the fullest extent possible.
18. This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts, all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

(signature page follows)

**TEAMING AGREEMENT**VSolvit, Sohum Systems, and CITI  
T724-20889

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties hereto have entered into this Agreement as of the Effective Date first above written, and agree to the terms and conditions set forth herein.**VSOLVIT LLC**

Signature:   
 Name: Stephen Lee  
 Title: General Counsel  
 Date: June 14, 2022

**CREATIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INC. (CITI)**

Signature:   
 Name: Rachana Kulkarni  
 Title: Sr. VP, Federal Services  
 Date: June 14, 2022

**SOHUM SYSTEMS, LLC**

Signature:   
 Name: srinivas moshugu  
 Title: CEO  
 Date: 06/14/2022